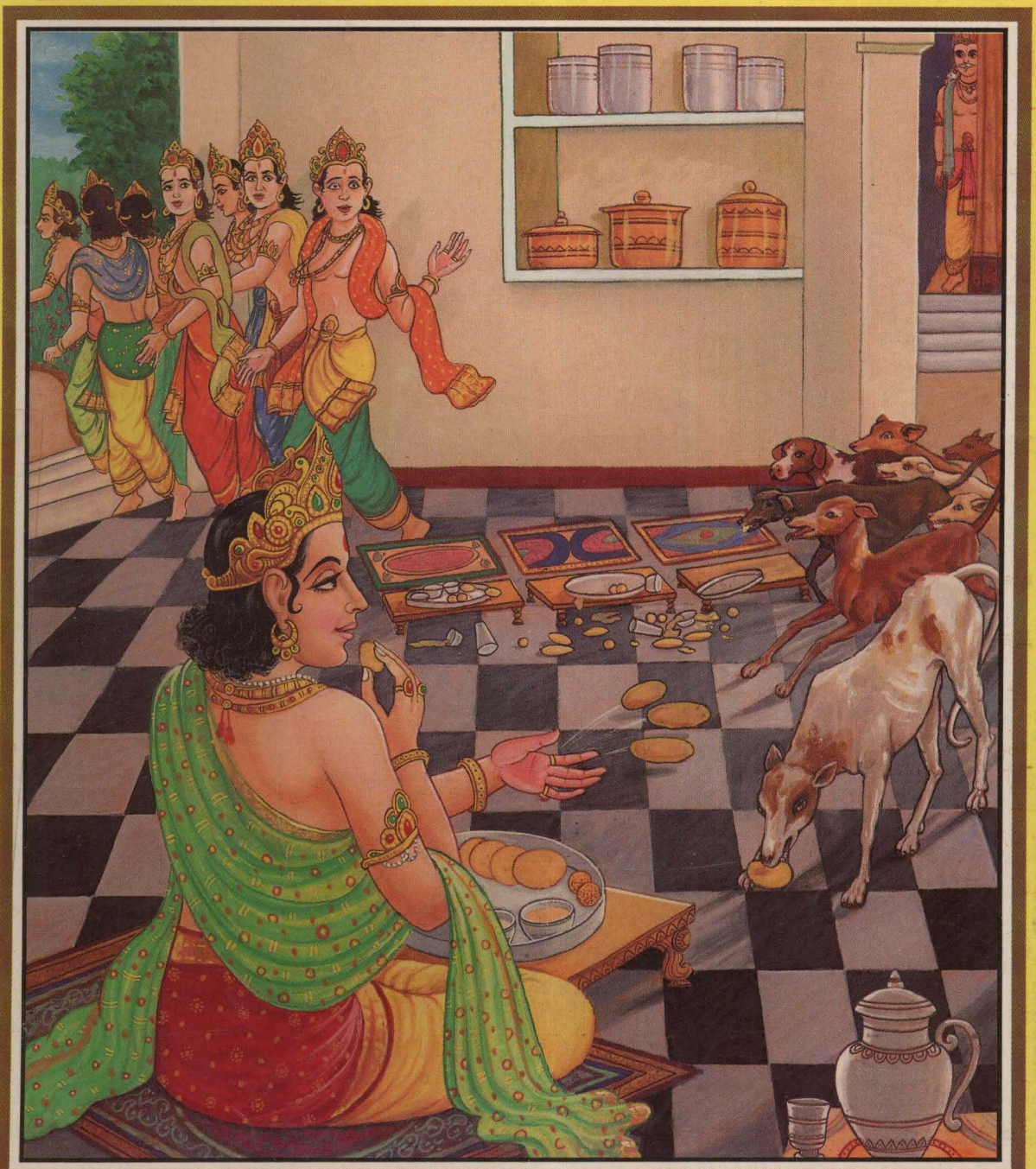


A Mahavir Seva Trust Presentation

PRINCE SHRENIK

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PRINCE SHRENIK

Shrenik, the king of Magadh was the leading king amongst the followers of Bhagwan Mahavir. He was the king from the generation of Shishunag, well known personality in history.

Jain history knows him as Shrenik Bhambhasar, while a historian writes him as Bimbisar Shrenik. According to the Jain literature, Shrenik saved Bhambha (royal symbol) when the palace caught fire and thus he was famous as "Bhambhasar".

Shrenik's father, king Prasenjit was the follower of Bhagwan Parshwanath. Shrenik's religion by heredity was Jain, but during the period of refugee from Magadh, he was impressed by good behaviour of a Buddha Acharya and as he had predicted that Shrenik will become the king of Magadh, Shrenik remained under his impression for some time. This is the reason which kept him away from Jain religion during his wedding with the daughter of king Chetak but later due to Chelana's efforts and contact with Anathi Muni he again came closer to Jain religion. And he became the devotee of Bhagwan Mahavir.

Shrenik was very intelligent, brave, adventurous and an expert ruler. Before he became the king, he had to wander and for a long period he disappeared. A merchant's daughter, Nanda married him by getting impressed by his sharp intellect and the qualities of coming from good family. Nanda herself was very intelligent and religious minded. Abhaykumar, Nanda's son inherited good qualities from her mother.

Jain literature gives many interesting stories related to the lives of Shrenik Abhaykumar. The given picture story is limited till Shrenik becomes the king. The credit of making Rajgruh a prosperous city of East India also goes to Shrenik.

This interesting historical story is composed by Acharya Shree Devendra Muni ji. We are thankful to him.

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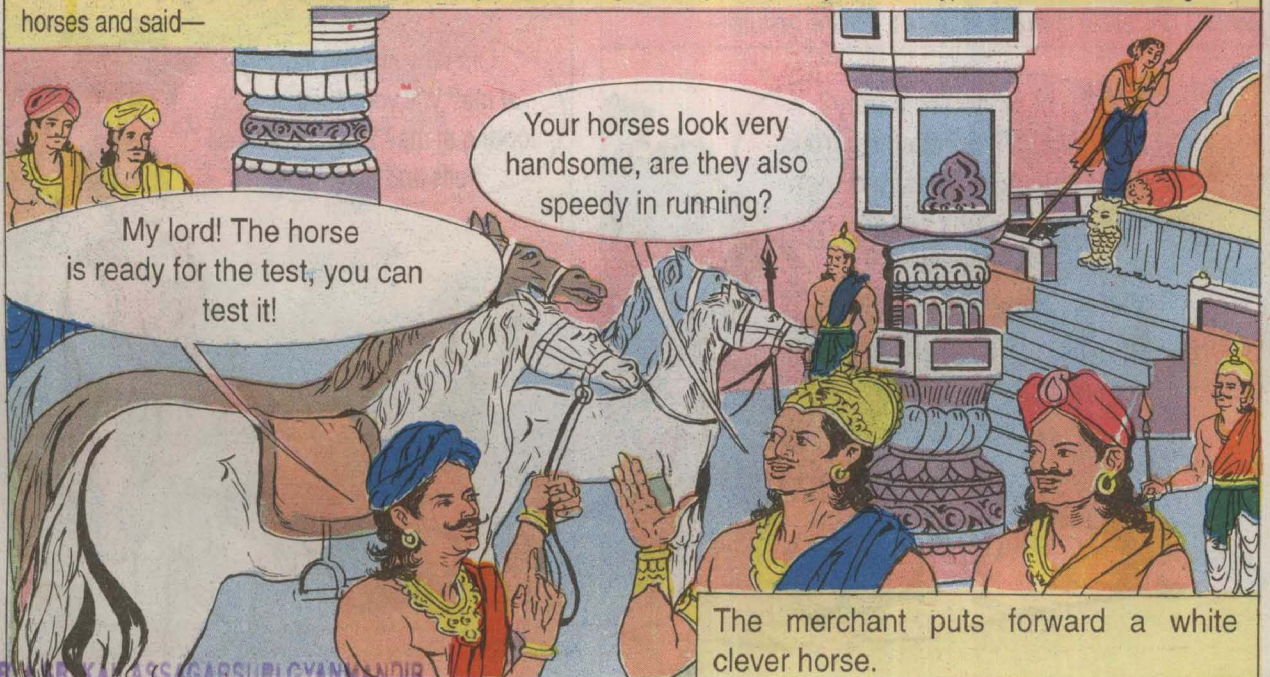
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PRINCE SHRENIK



Kushagrapur was the capital of Magadh and was located at the feet of five mountains named Vaibhavgiri etc. King Prasenjit ruled over it. He was the follower of twenty third Tirthankar Bhagwan Parshwanath and he was a brave warrior. Prasenjit had many queens but Kalavati was favourite. Shrenik was eldest son amongst the hundred sons of the king.

Once a merchant came from Sindh to the royal hall of king Prasenjit with many different types of horses. The king saw horses and said—



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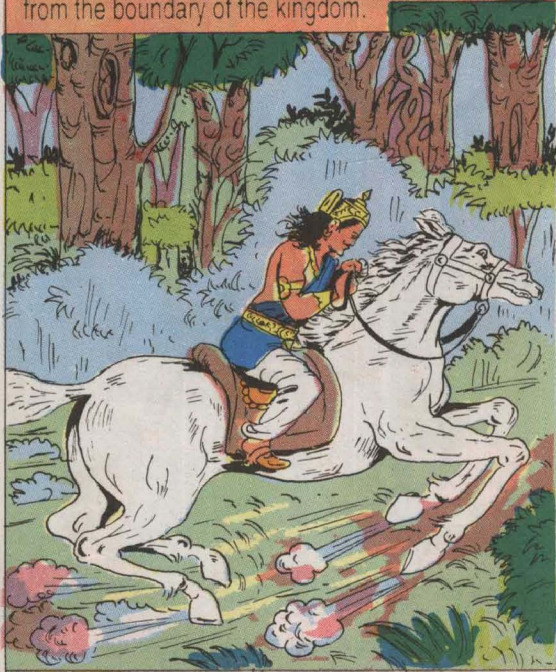
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Prasenjit rides on the horse. The king gave signal with the ankle and the horse was flying in the air. In no time the horse reached to a wild forest far away from the boundary of the kingdom.



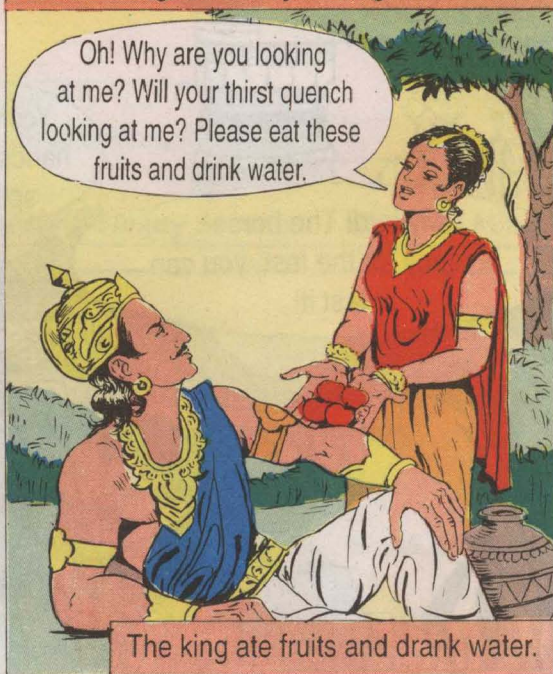
Prasenjit was frightened with the fast speed of the horse and thus pulled the reins to control it, the horse stopped with a jerk. Prasenjit fell on the ground.

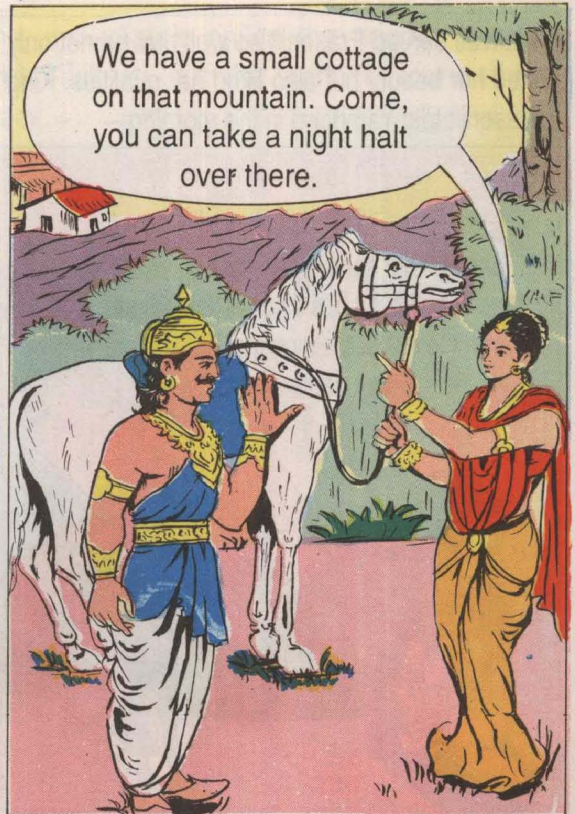


A beautiful girl was passing by from there with a pot filled with water. She saw the king lying on the floor fainted, so she sprinkled cold water on the king's face. The king opened his eyes. He couldn't talk due to thirst. He explained with the gesture—

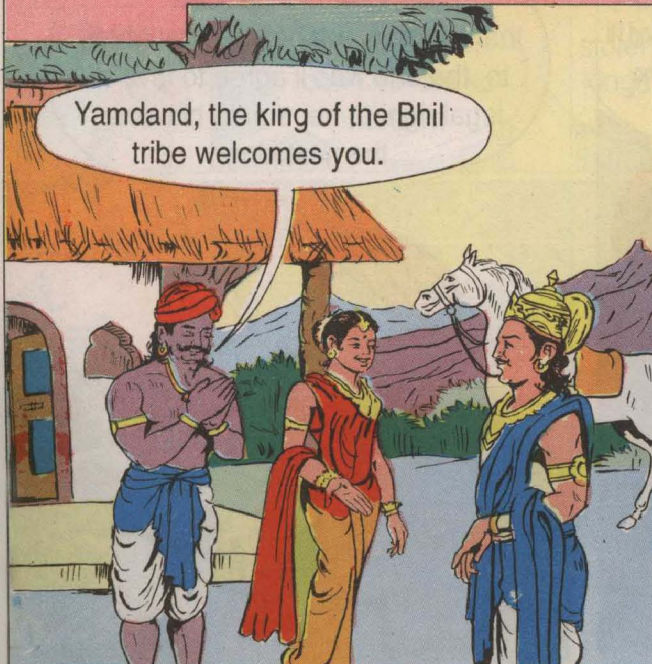


The girl plucked some fruits from the nearby tree quickly. The king forgot to eat fruits as he was admiring the beauty of the girl.

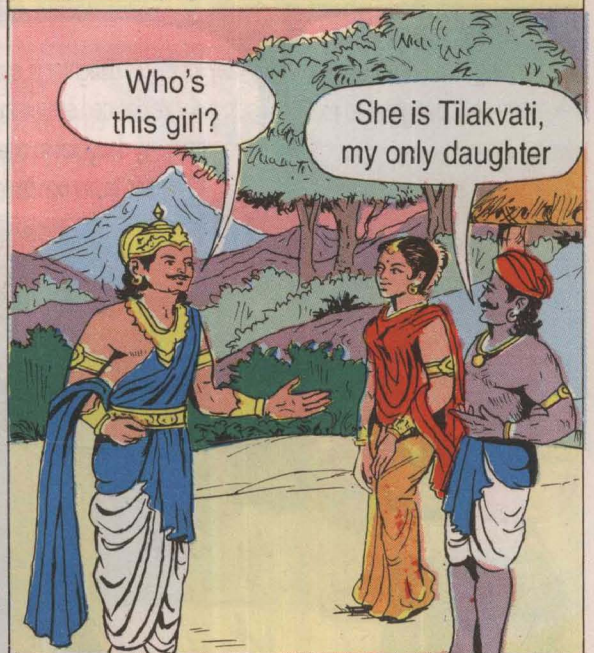




The girl brought Prasenjit to her cottage. A well built man came out of the cottage seeing them. He welcomed king Prasenjit.

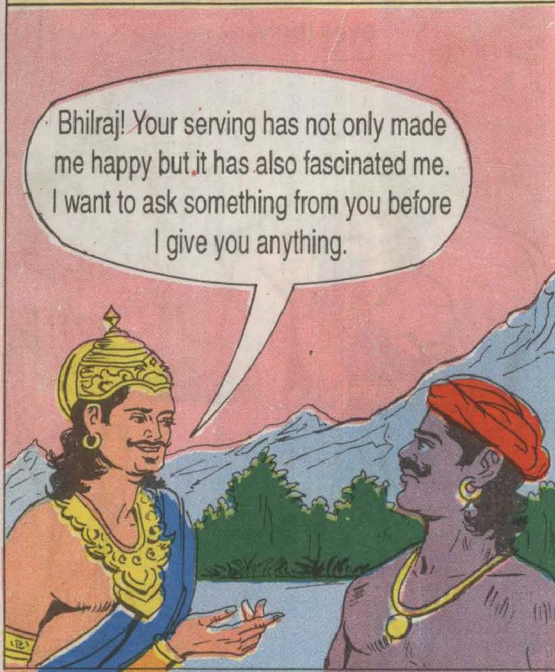


King Prasenjit gave his introduction and asked—

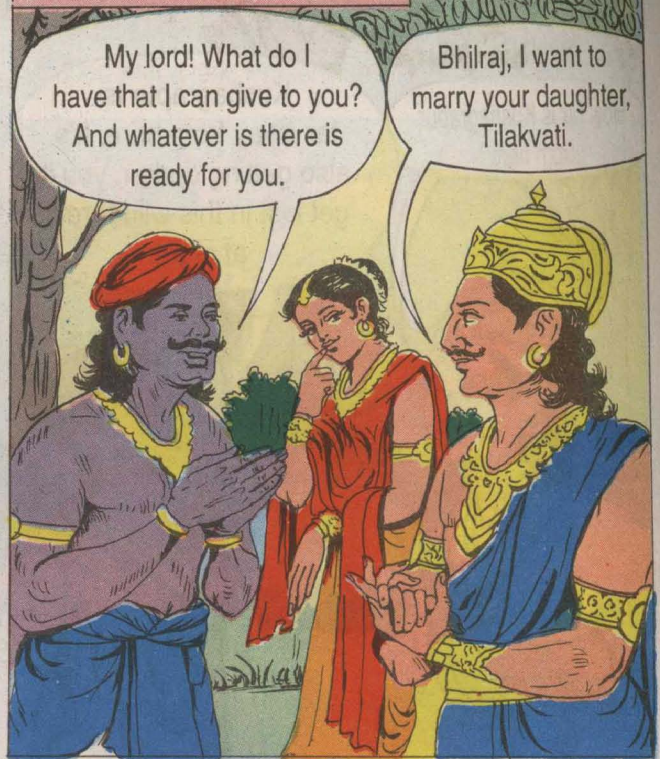


King Prasenjit took rest at night in the cottage.

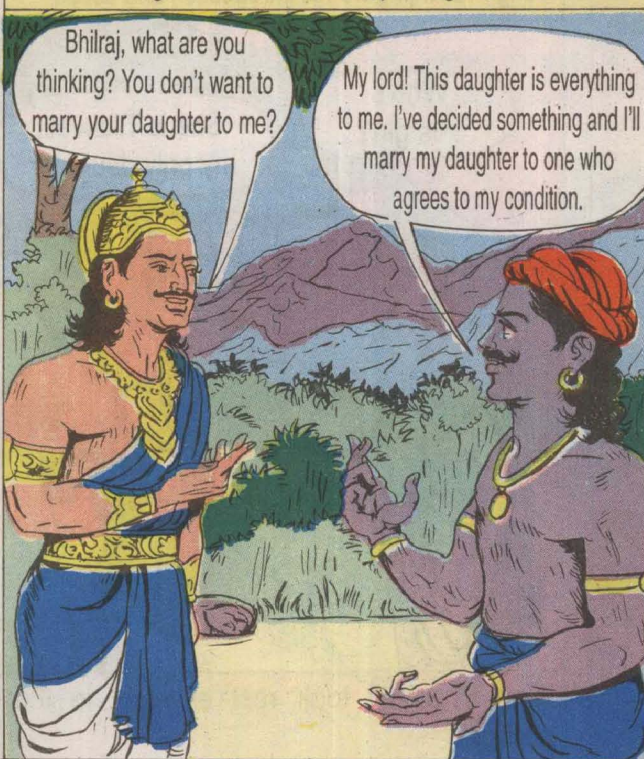
Tilakvati served Prasenjit so well that he not only liked her beauty but also liked her qualities. King Prasenjit told Yamdand in the morning—



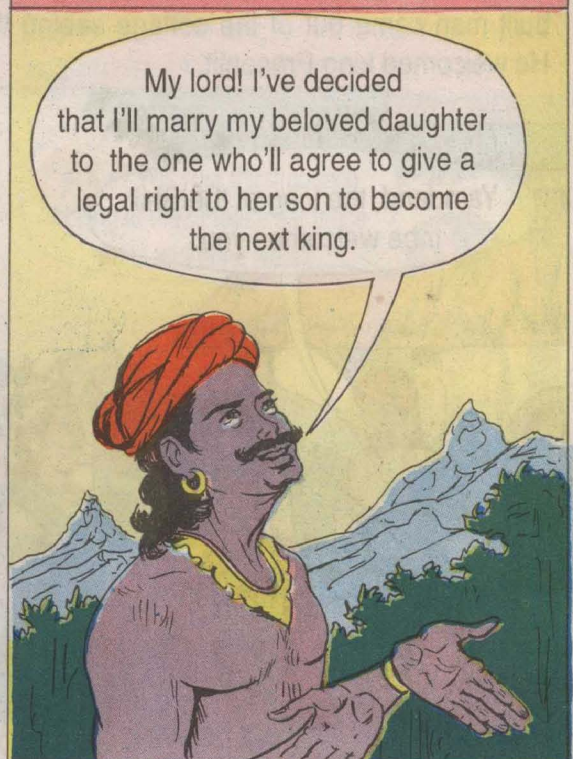
Yamdand said with respect—



When the king saw Yamdand in deep thoughts, he asked—



Then Yamdand looked at the sky and said—



Prasenjit became sentimental. Discrimination and duty was overpowered by passion. He said—

I promise you that
Tilakvati's son will have a legal
right to the thorne.



Yamdand was satisfied with Prasenjit's promise.

Yamdand immediately called the people of his area and Tilakvati put the garland round the king's neck.

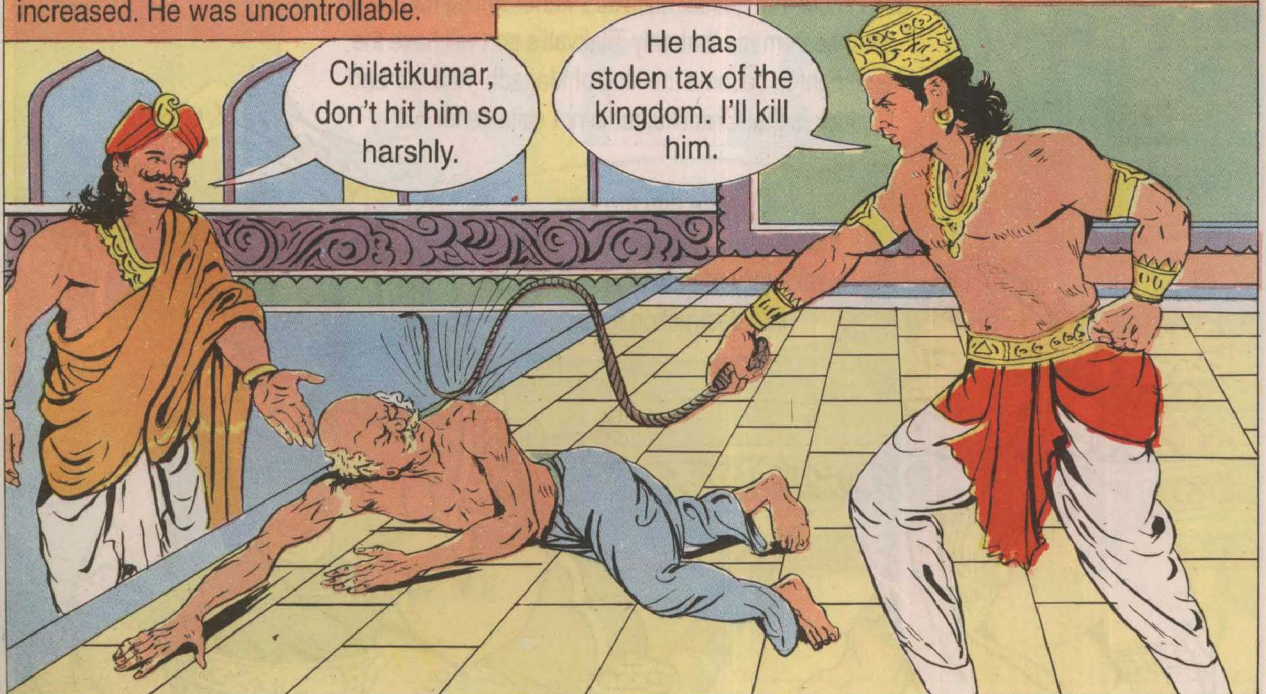


Prasenjit returned to the kingdom with Tilakvati.

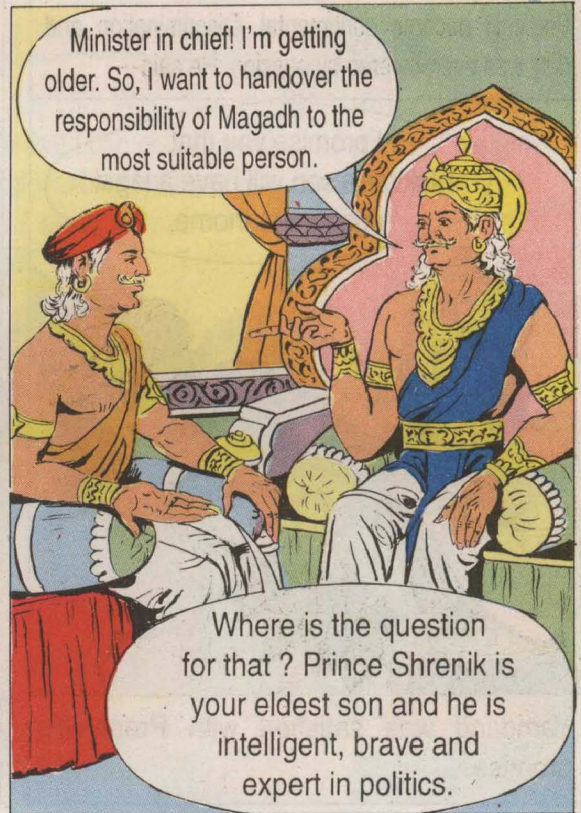
As the time passed, Tilakvati gave birth to a son. He was named Chilatikumar. Chilatikumar was also educated with Shrenik and other princes. As he reached adolescence, his harshness and cruelty increased. He was uncontrollable.

Chilatikumar,
don't hit him so
harshly.

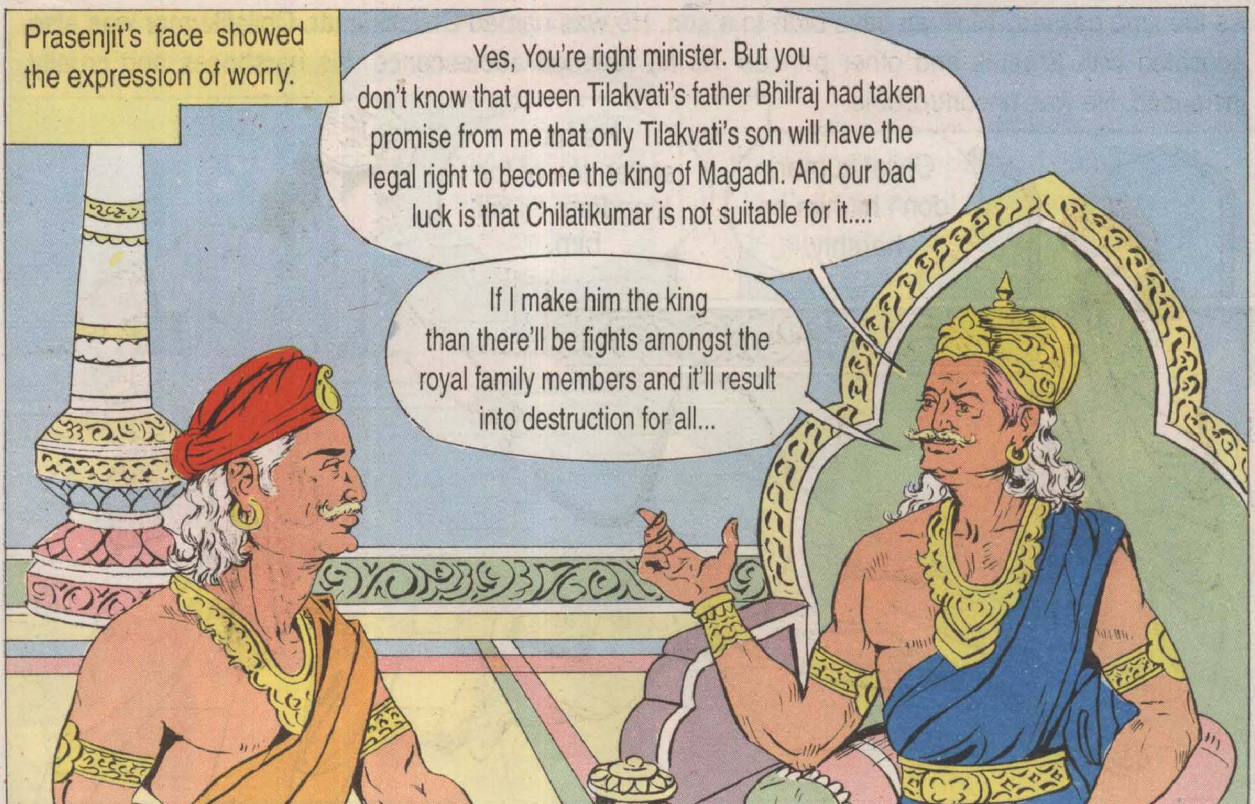
He has
stolen tax of the
kingdom. I'll kill
him.



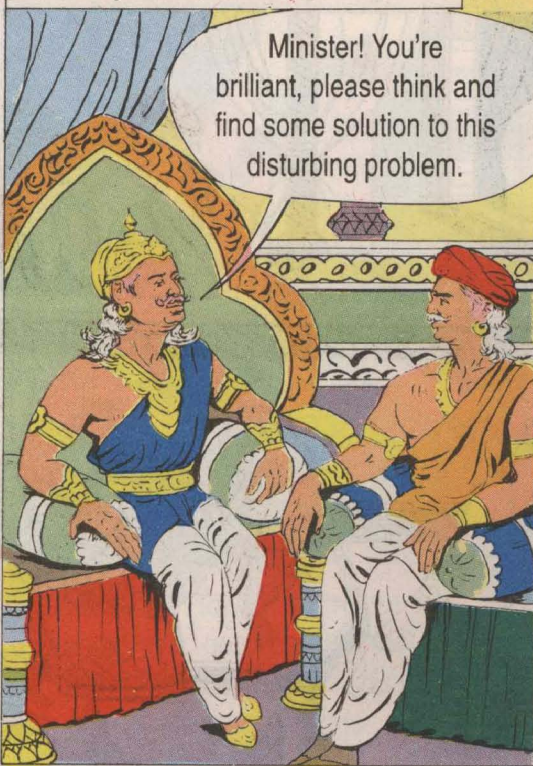
King Prasenjit became old with the time. One day he called his minister in chief, Vachaspati—



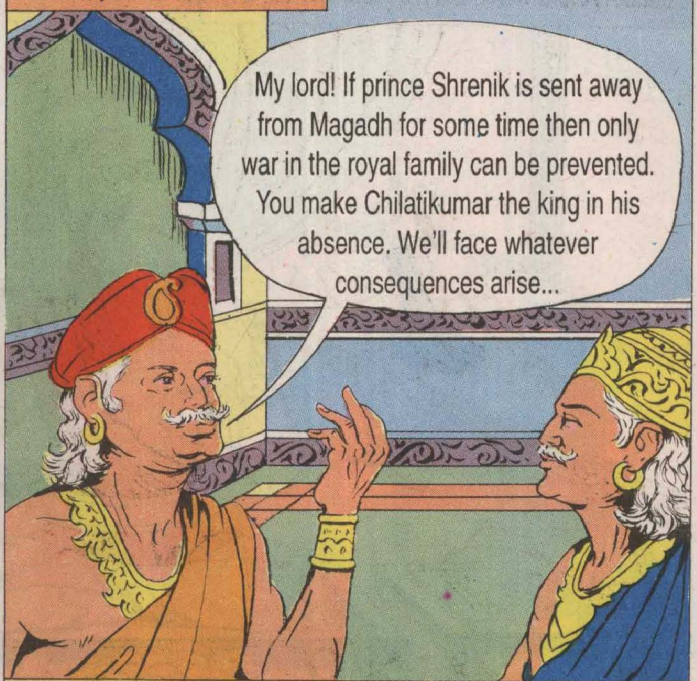
Prasenjit's face showed the expression of worry.



Prasenjit continued...



Minister Vachaspati thought for sometime after listening to Prasenjit and then said—



Minister made a plan after king Prasenjit's suggestion.

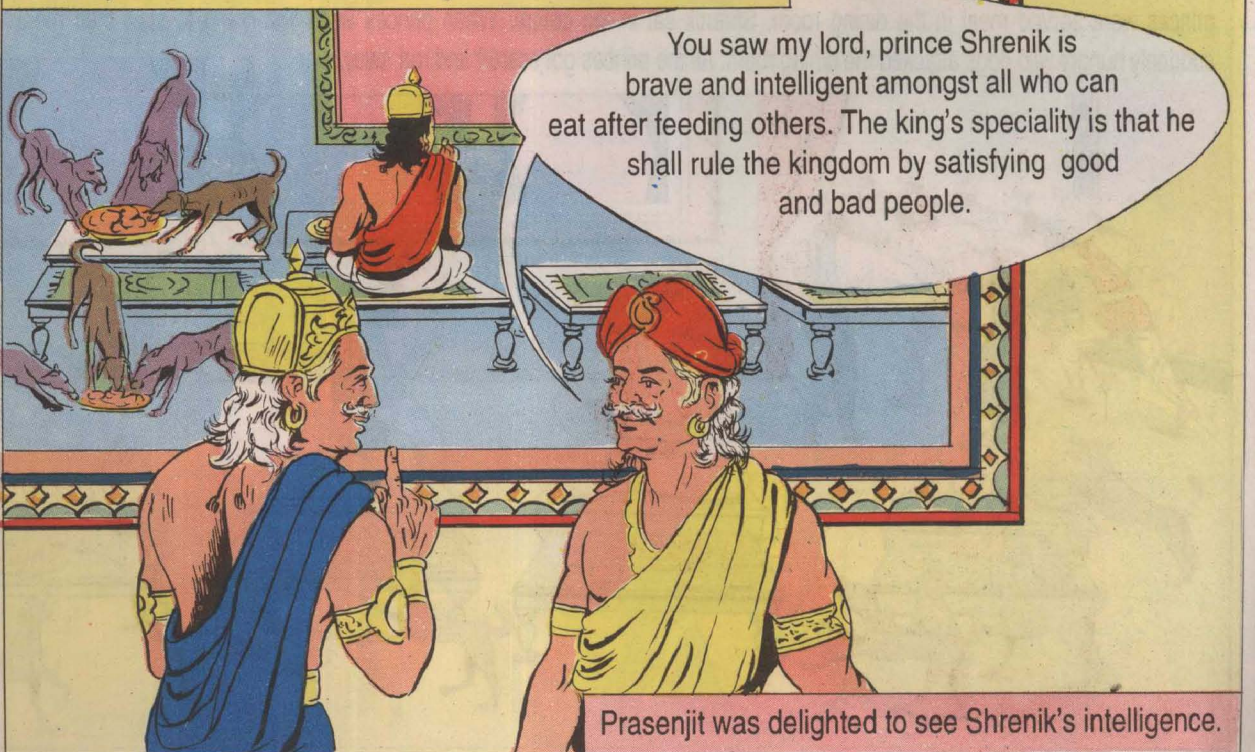
Minister Vachaspati thought for sometime after listening to Prasenjit and then said—Next day, according to the royal order, 100 princes were served meal in the dining room. Shrenik sat in the centre. When princes were just going to start their meal, suddenly hungry wild dogs attacked the dining room. All the princes got scared and ran away.



Adventurous Shrenik shifted the plates of those princes who ran away to the dogs. Dogs started eating from those plates. And Shrenik ate his meal without any fear or worry.

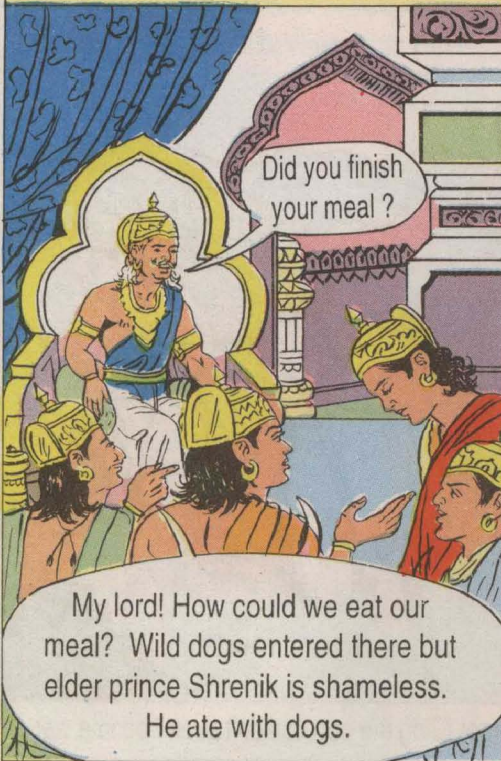


The king and the minister were looking at the scene from behind.

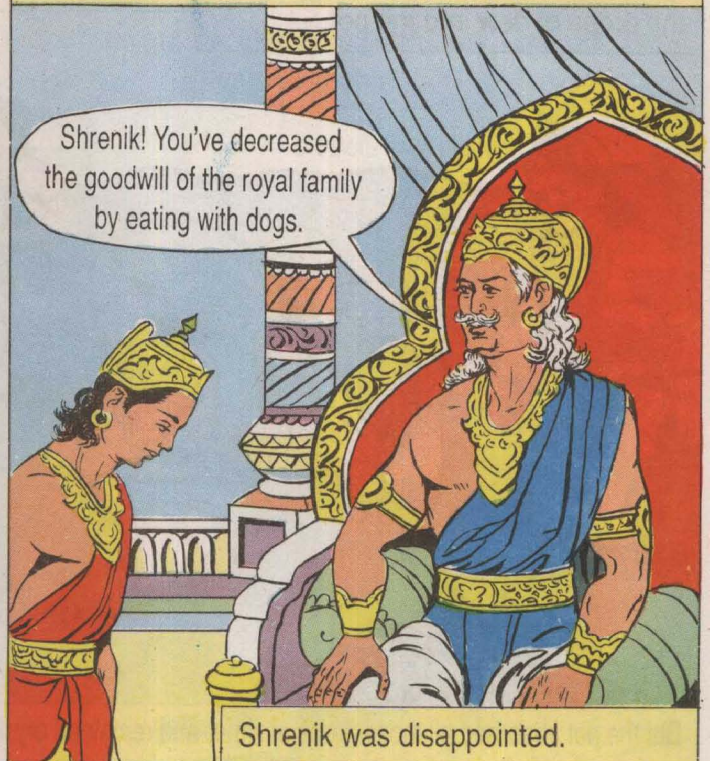


Prasenjit was delighted to see Shrenik's intelligence.

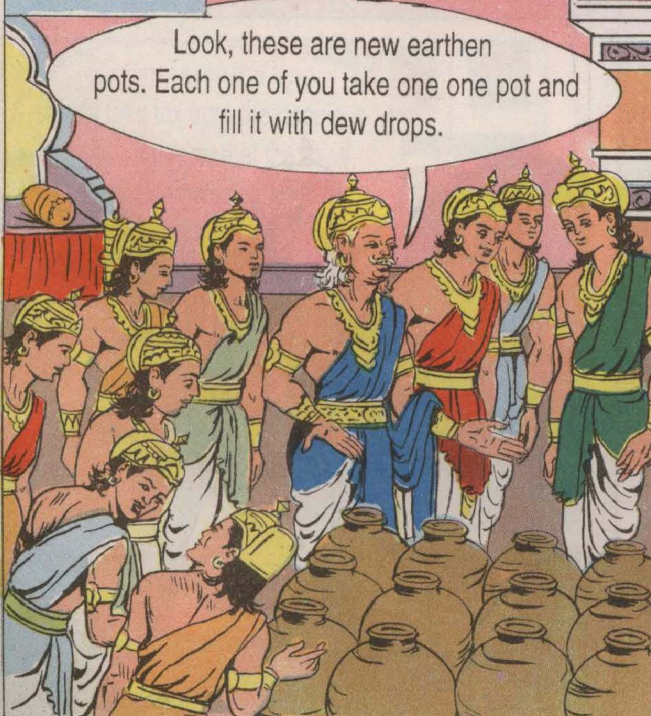
Prasenjit called all the princes and asked—



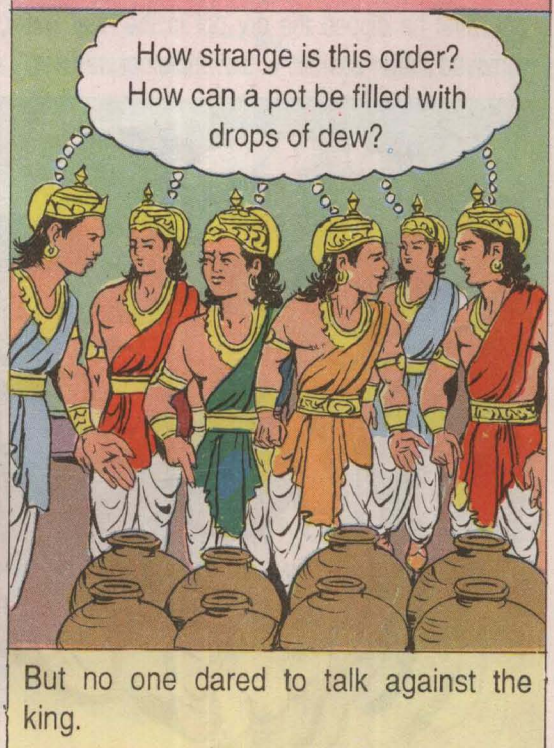
Prasenjit scolded Shrenik hiding his joy —



Next day Prasenjit called all the princes and said—



Princes looked at each other's faces—

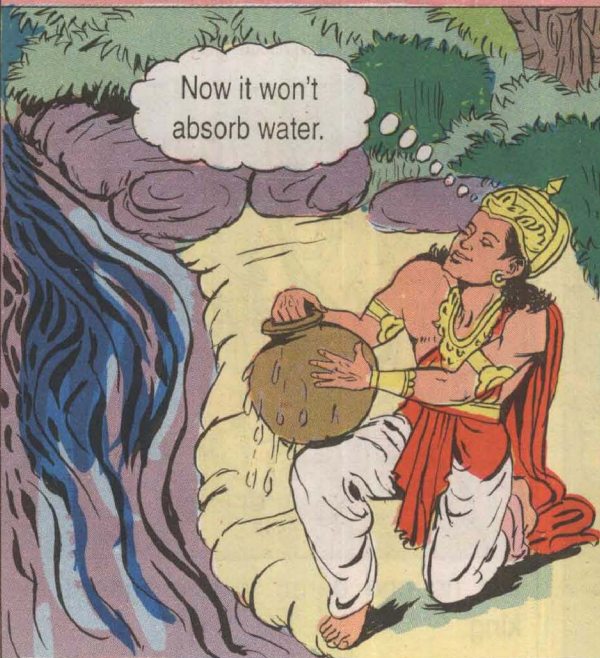


Next day all the princes reached the garden before sun rise. They tried to fill the pot by putting the drops of dew into the pot.



But the pot absorbed all those drops of water and remained dry. Forget filling the pot, it didn't even become wet.

Prince Shrenik also reached the river bank with earthen pot. First he dipped the dry pot in the river water, he removed it after sometime, the whole pot was wet.



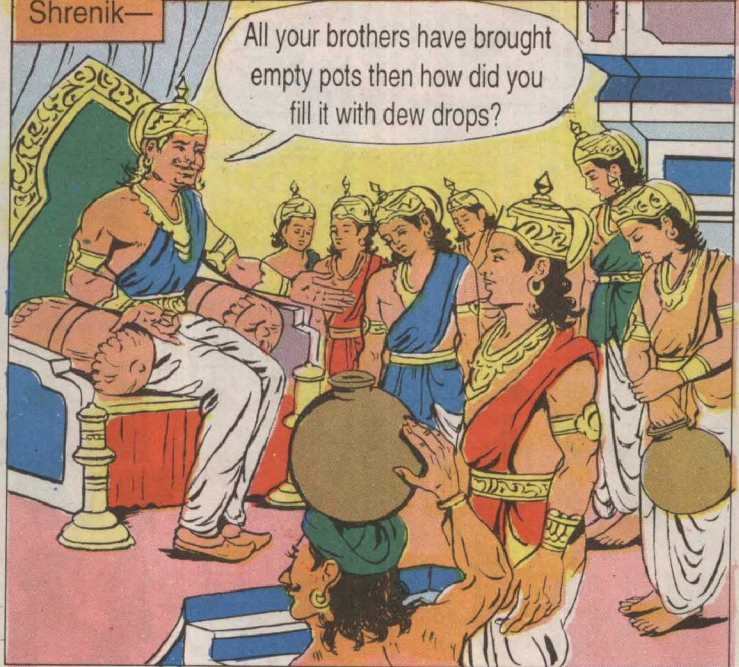
Then he spread a thin bedsheet on the grass. The bedsheet was wet with the drops of dew.



He squeezed the water from the bedsheet in the pot. By repeating the whole process again and again the pot was filled with the dew drops.

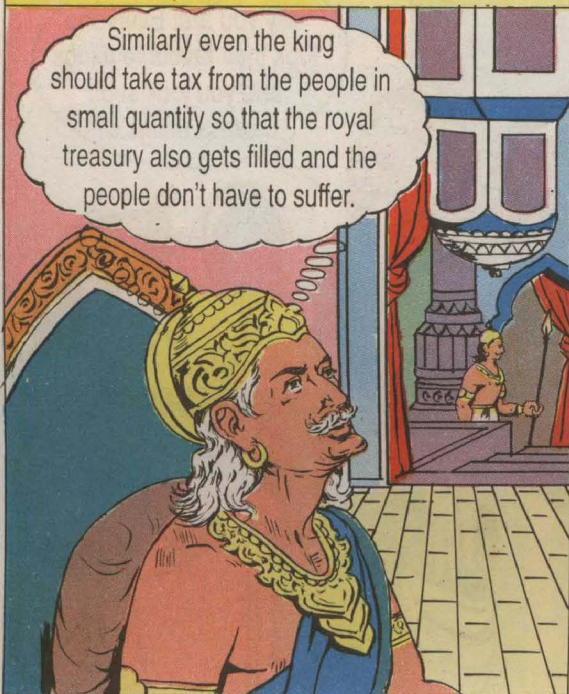


All the princes presented themselves with empty pots to the king but Shrenik brought the pot filled with dew drops on the servant's head. The king asked Shrenik—



Shrenik told about his idea. King Prasenjit was very happy to hear it. He thought—

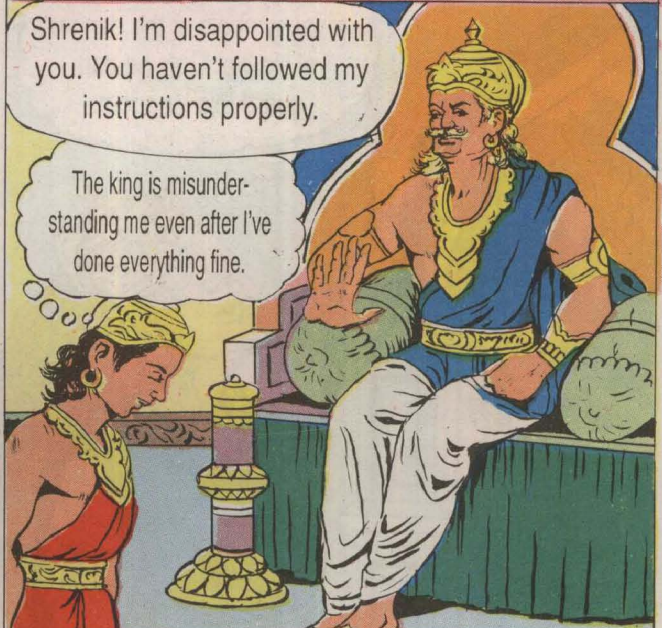
Similarly even the king should take tax from the people in small quantity so that the royal treasury also gets filled and the people don't have to suffer.



But he showed unhappiness from outside and said—

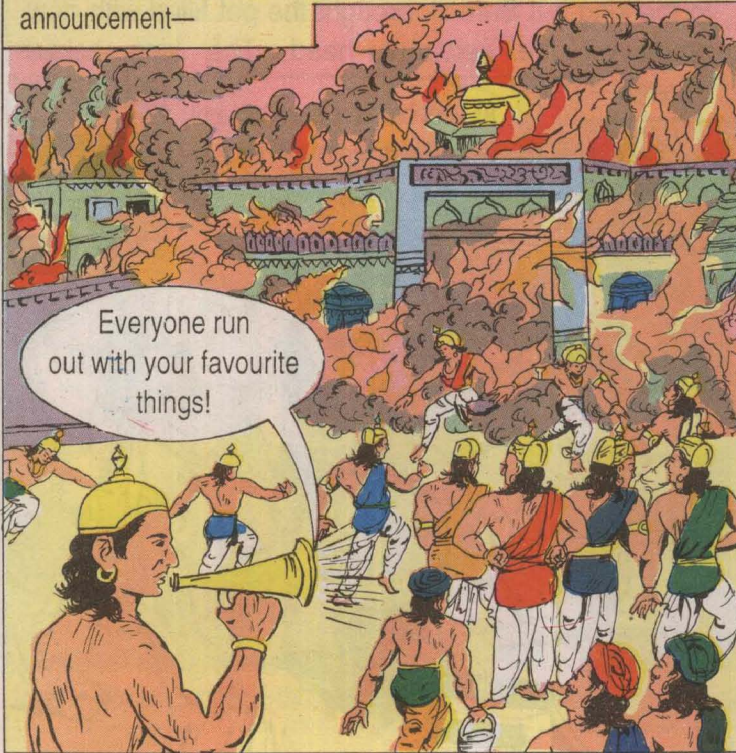
Shrenik! I'm disappointed with you. You haven't followed my instructions properly.

The king is misunderstanding me even after I've done everything fine.

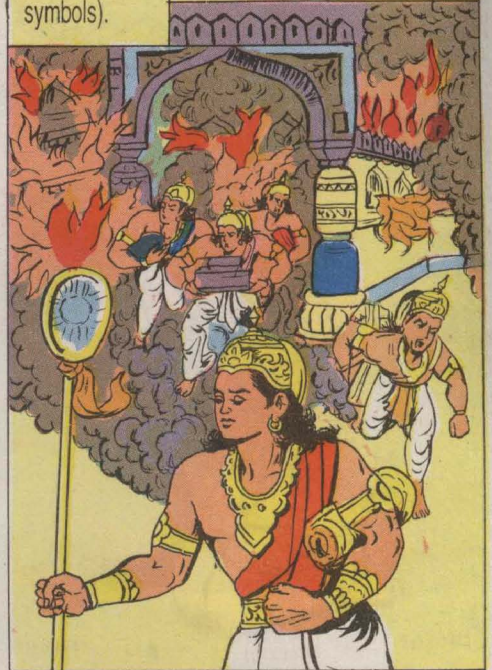


Shrenik was very much hurt. He went away quietly.

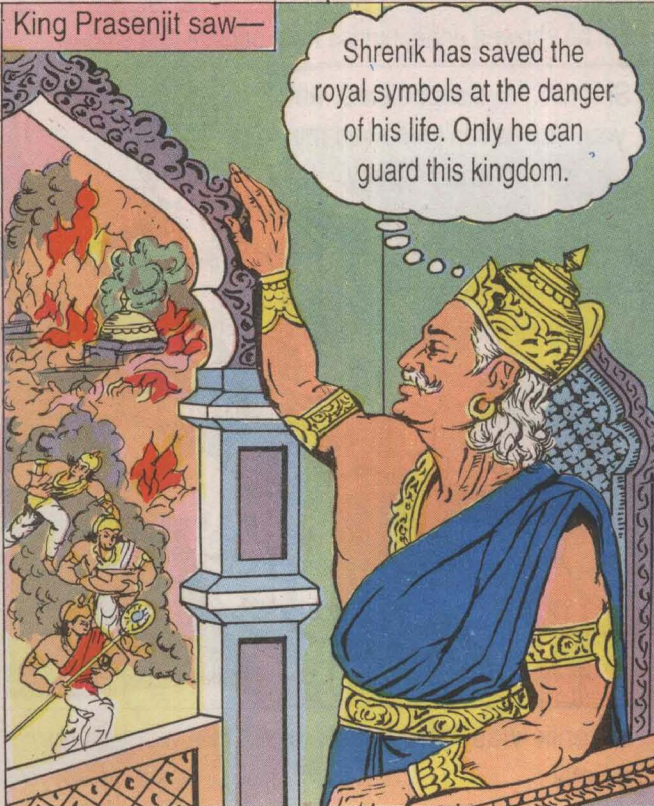
Once fire caught the royal palace of Kushagrapur. The king made an announcement—



Some prince took his clothes, someone took eatable, some took money etc. Shrenik ran with 'Chatra, Chanvar and Bhambha' (these were royal symbols).



King Prasenjit saw—

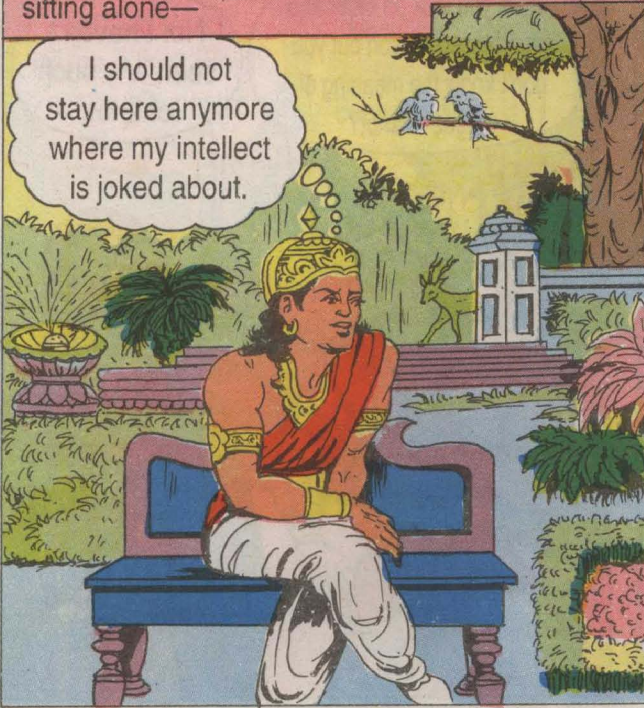


But the king hid his happiness and said laughingly—

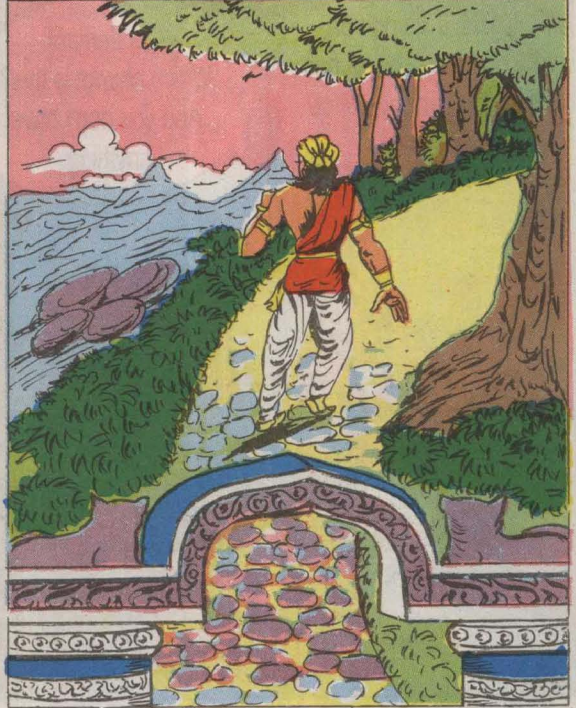


Shrenik was very angry from within. But he went away quietly respecting his father. He thought sitting alone—

I should not stay here anymore where my intellect is joked about.



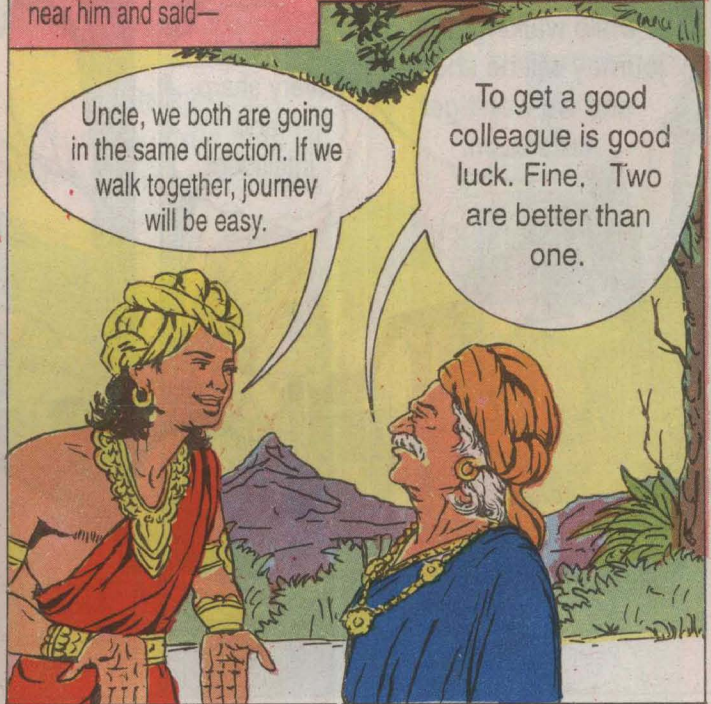
Shrenik took decision, he changed his dress and went out of the kingdom towards the west.



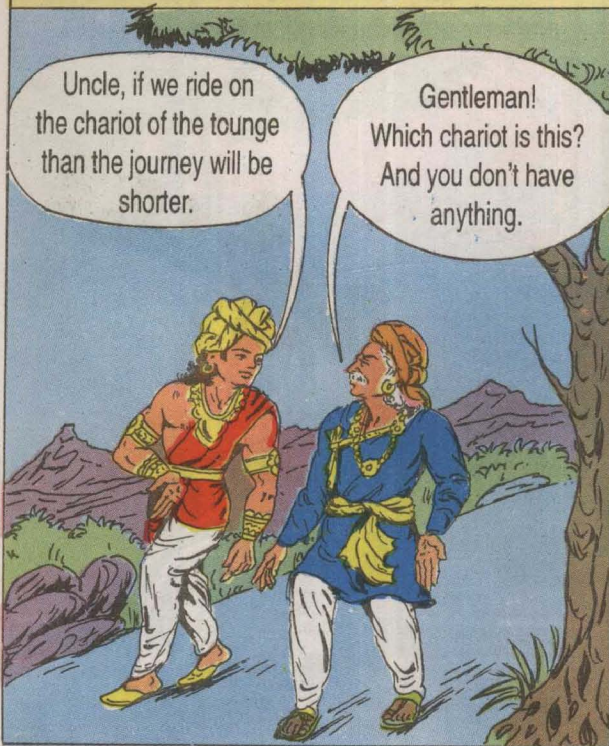
Shrenik felt bored walking alone for sometime. Then he saw an elderly person walking ahead. He was a merchant, Subhadra from Venatat. Shrenik walked fast and reached near him and called—



Merchant Subhadra was surprised and looked back. He was surprised to hear uncle, he stopped. By then Shrenik also reached near him and said—



As Subhadra was walking quietly, Shrenik said—



Shrenik laughingly said—



Shrenik again laughed—



It was afternoon while walking. Shrenik said—



They met a villager. Subhadra asked—

Brother! Which village is this? Which community people stay here?

This is Nandigram. Brahmins stay here, Baba Nandinath is our head of the village.

Both went to the head, Nandinath. They said—

Baba, we've come from Kushagrapur and we're hungry. Whether your village has any facility of the meal for the travellers?

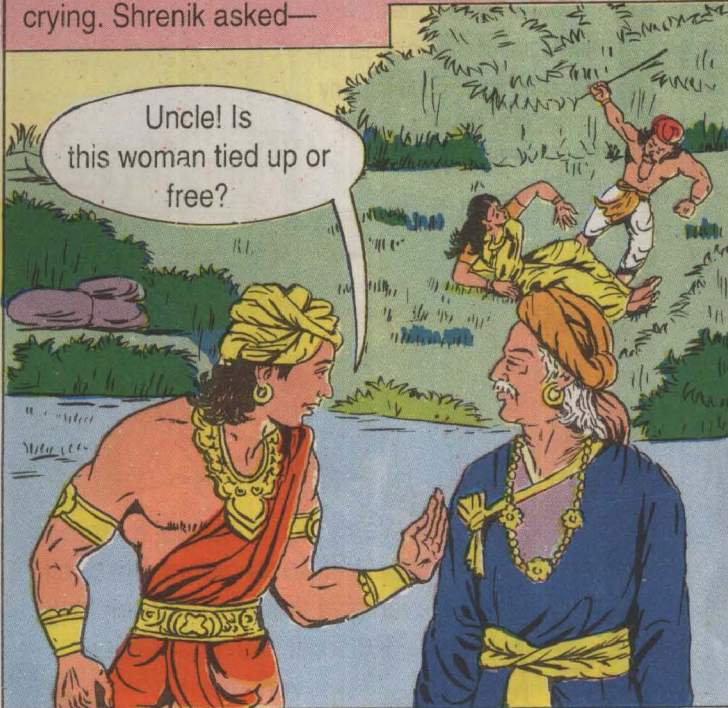
We've facility, but not for the people of Kushagrapur. We don't even give them water. Their king Prasenjit has harassed us very much.

Shrenik and the merchant Subhadra moved ahead after that insult. They saw a Buddha monastery on the way. Both reached the monastery. The monk there welcomed both the travellers lovingly and gave them meals. When both were to move ahead after a short halt, the monk blessed Shrenik and said—

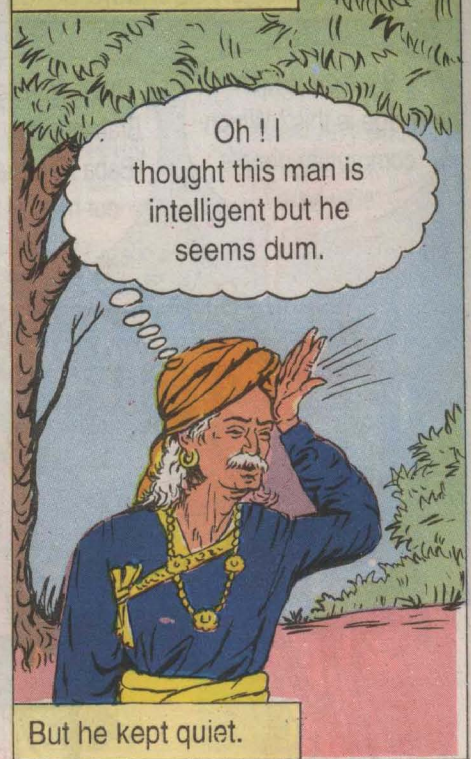
Brilliant gentleman! Your good feature tells that you will be a brave emperor of some kingdom soon.

If whatever you said turns out true than I'll definitely give you a royal honor.

When both the travellers moved ahead, they saw that a man was hitting a woman in the farm. The woman was crying. Shrenik asked—



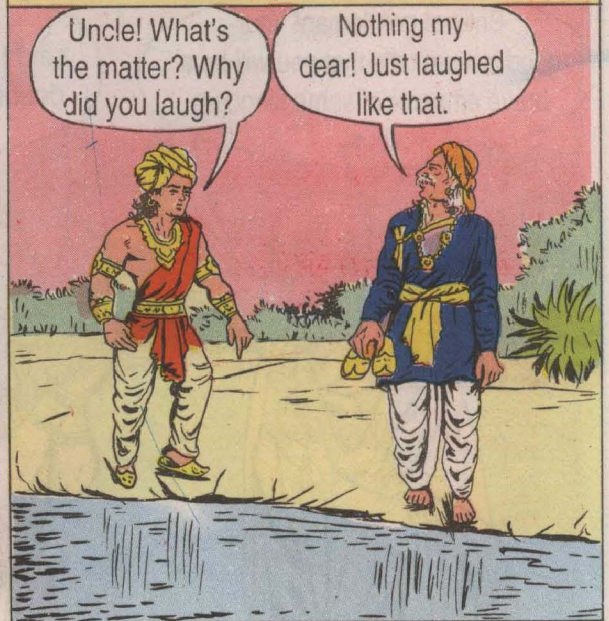
Subhadra scratched his head—



They reached near a river after walking for a while. The river had less water and more sand on both the banks. Shrenik took his shoes in his hand while walking in the sand. Subhadra laughed.

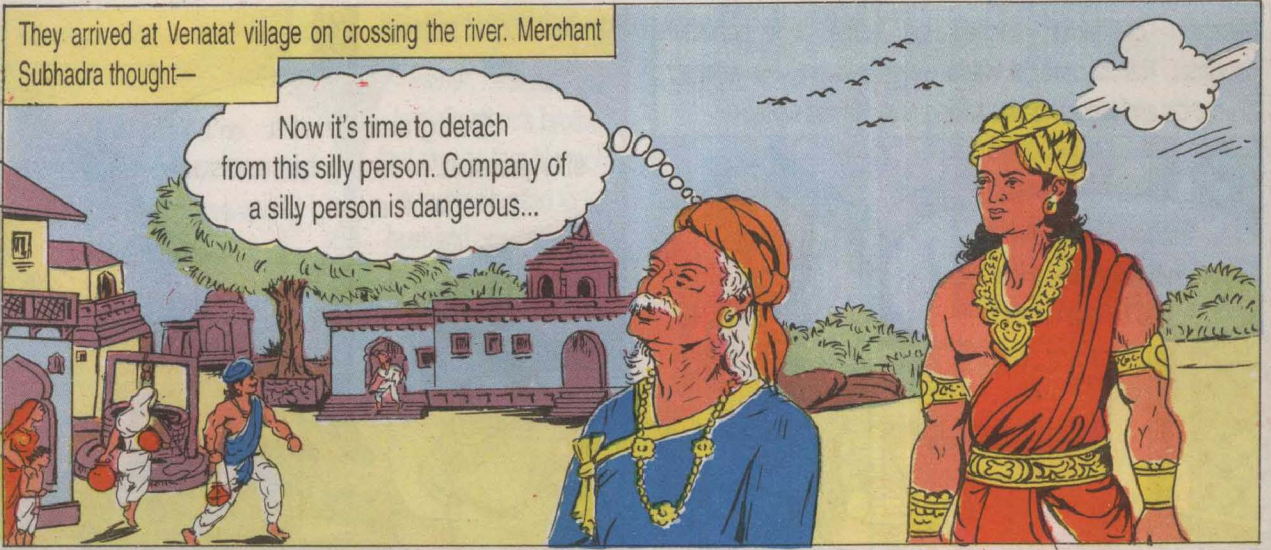


When water came, Subhadra removed his shoes but Shrenik wore shoes in his feet. Seeing this Subhadra laughed very loudly. Shrenik understood but still asked—



They arrived at Venatat village on crossing the river. Merchant Subhadra thought—

Now it's time to detach from this silly person. Company of a silly person is dangerous...



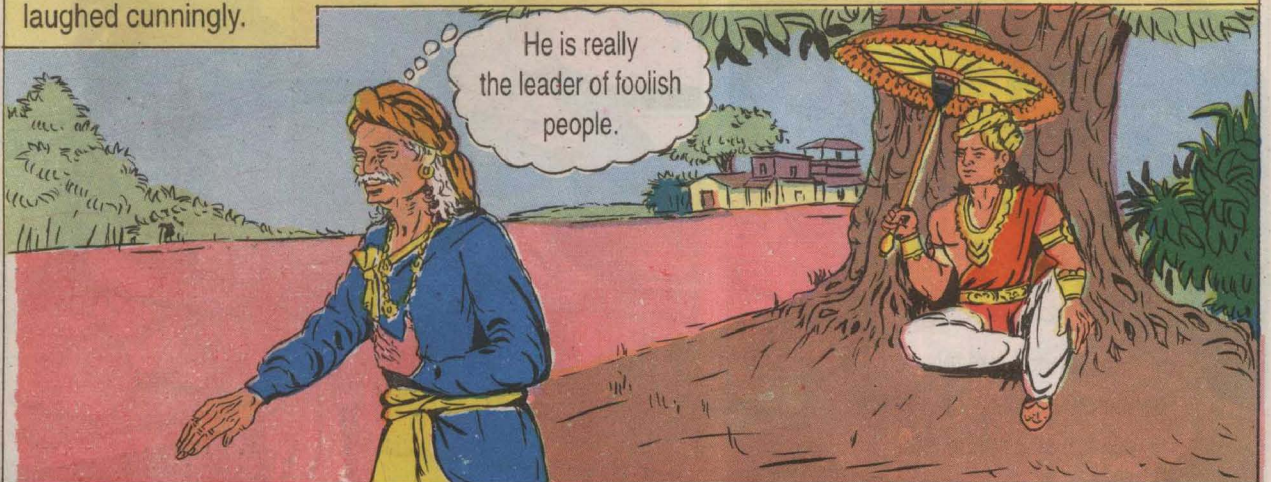
He told Shrenik—

Nephew, my village has come. You wait here in the shadow of the mango tree. I'll make arrangement after going home for your stay and than I'll call you there.



Shrenik opened his umbrella and sat in the shadow of the tree.* Seeing this Merchant Subhadra laughed cunningly.

He is really the leader of foolish people.



* The reason of sitting under a mango tree with open umbrella is that- one can be prevented from the excrement of those birds sitting on the tree.

Merchant Subhadra reached his home. His beautiful daughter, Nanda brought warm water in a pot. He washed his hands and legs and was taking rest. Nanda asked—

Father! Everytime you return home early. How come you're late today?

Merchant laughed and said—

Daughter, I met a silly person. Hearing his unusual talks took a long time.

Father, what talks were they? Let me also know.

Merchant said—

Daughter, first he called me 'uncle'. This isn't like an uninvited guest?

Father, I feel this gentleman mysterious. Please tell me all what he said.

The merchant described all the events one after another and then laughed very loudly.

Daughter, now you only tell me if such a silly person accompanies me, than what should I do?

Father, I don't think this gentleman is silly, he seems to be very intelligent. His every talk has some meaning.

Merchant said—

Fine, you're also intelligent. Tell me what are the meaning of his talks?

Father, he called you uncle (mother's brother), that means that his mother is truly devoted to her husband only and all the men of the world are like her brother. Isn't it?

The merchant scratched his head—

Yes, that's right, but the other talks were not complicated?

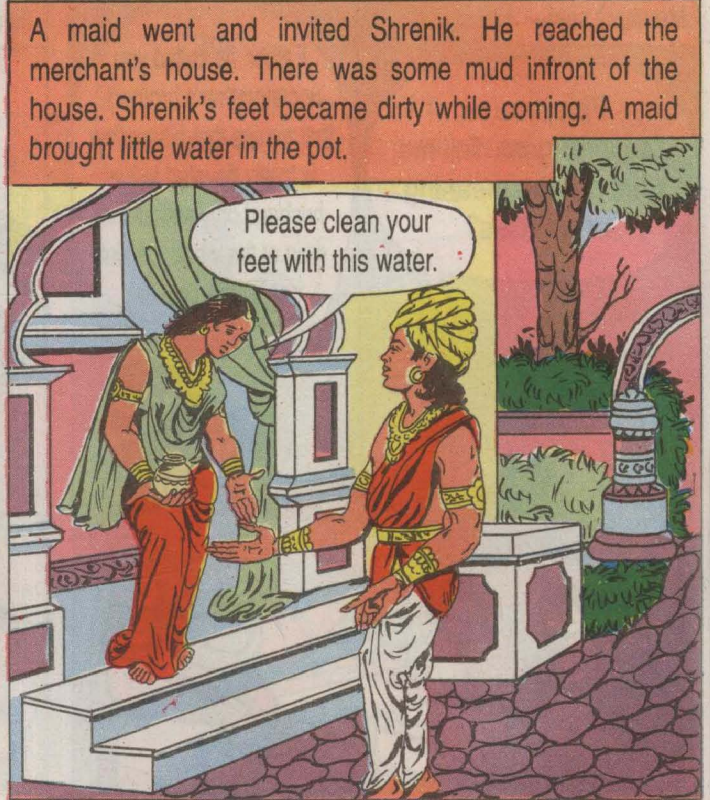
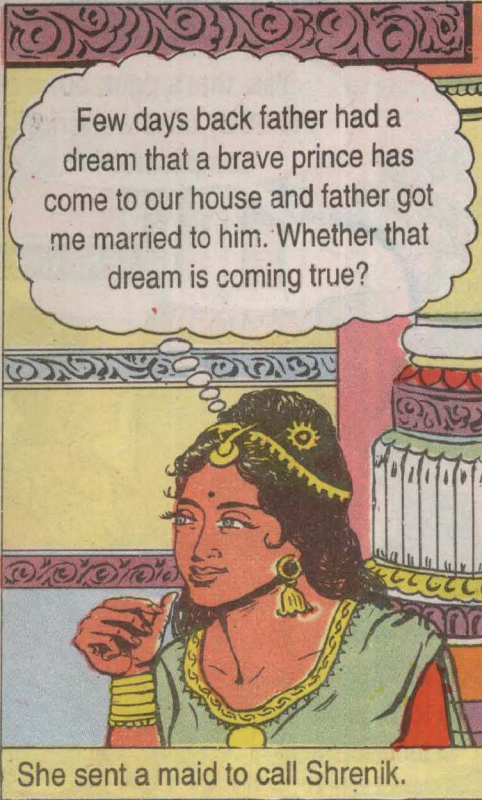
No father, I'll tell you about its mystery. He has already told you the meaning of tongue-chariot.

Similarly the meaning of the female who's tied up or free is also clear. If that female is married, then she's tied up. She tolerates husband's beating but she can't leave him and go. If she was his kept (free), she could run away after receiving husband's beating.

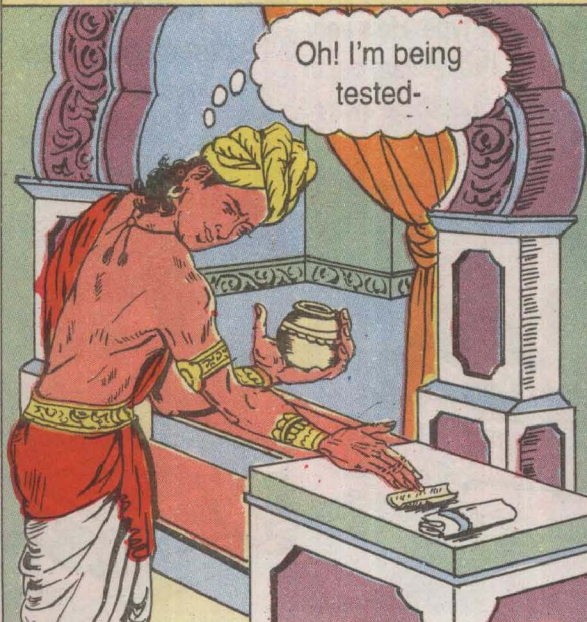
When Nanda told the meaning of all the events, the merchant was surprised. He said—

Daughter, I think, he is of your type. He's very intelligent. I've left him out of the village just to be away from him.

An intelligent person should be invited as our guest.



Shrenik saw there was little water in the pot. How the feet can be cleaned with little water? He looked here and there and he found a small, thin bamboo stick. A thin cloth was also kept nearby. Shrenik smiled—

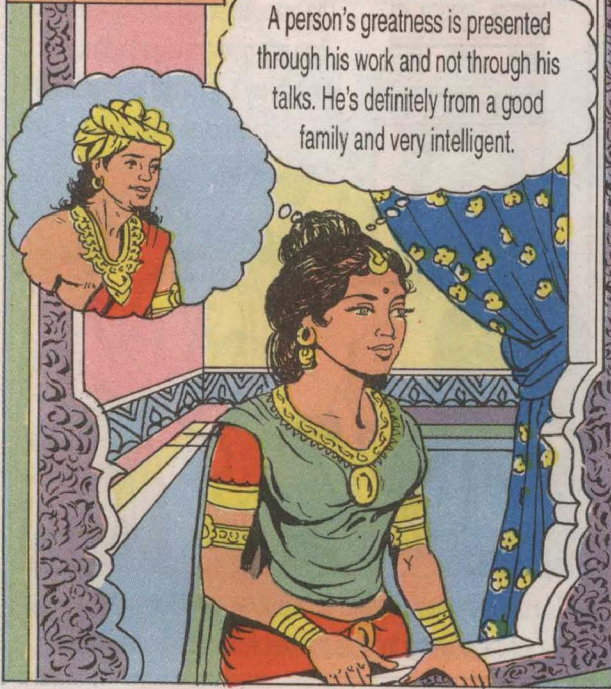


He removed the mud with bamboo stick and then he wet the cloth with little water and wiped his feet. Nanda thought seeing this—



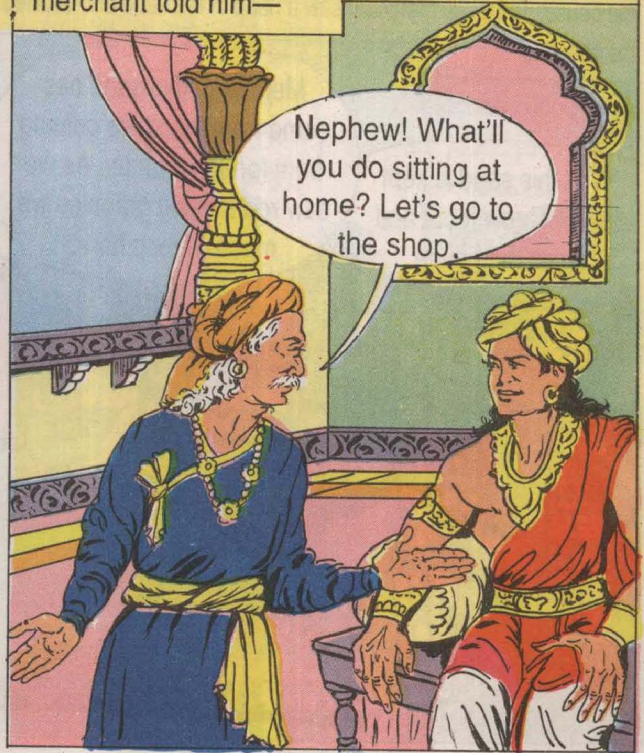
She took many more tests. Shrenik's cleverness and simplicity at heart was presented during all the tests. Nanda understood—

A person's greatness is presented through his work and not through his talks. He's definitely from a good family and very intelligent.



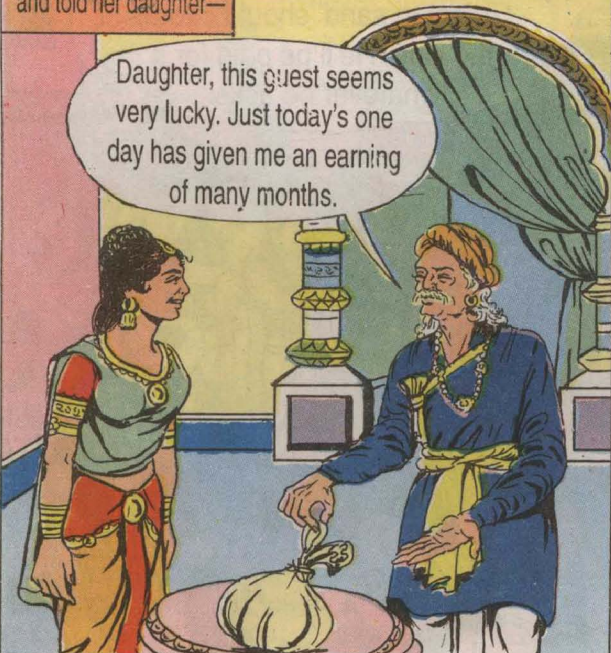
When Shrenik finished his bath and lunch, the merchant told him—

Nephew! What'll you do sitting at home? Let's go to the shop.



Shrenik went with the merchant to the shop. That day many big merchants came from far away to the merchant's shop. The merchant returned home in the evening with the bag of money and told her daughter—

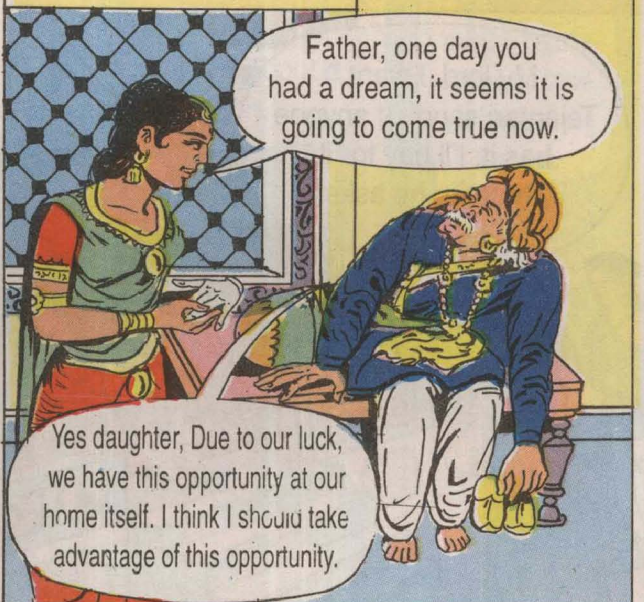
Daughter, this guest seems very lucky. Just today's one day has given me an earning of many months.



Slowly Nanda and Shrenik came more closer. One day Nanda told her father—

Father, one day you had a dream, it seems it is going to come true now.

Yes daughter, Due to our luck, we have this opportunity at our home itself. I think I should take advantage of this opportunity.

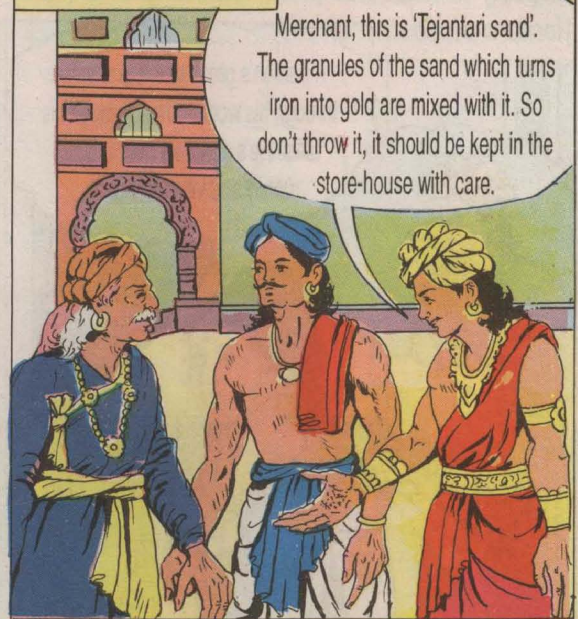


Few days later the merchant got Nanda married to Shrenik. Shrenik stayed there as son-in-law.

One day Shrenik and merchant Subhadra went on the backside of the house. There the merchant saw a heap of red sand and scolded the servants—



Shrenik took granules of the sand in his hand and told the merchant—

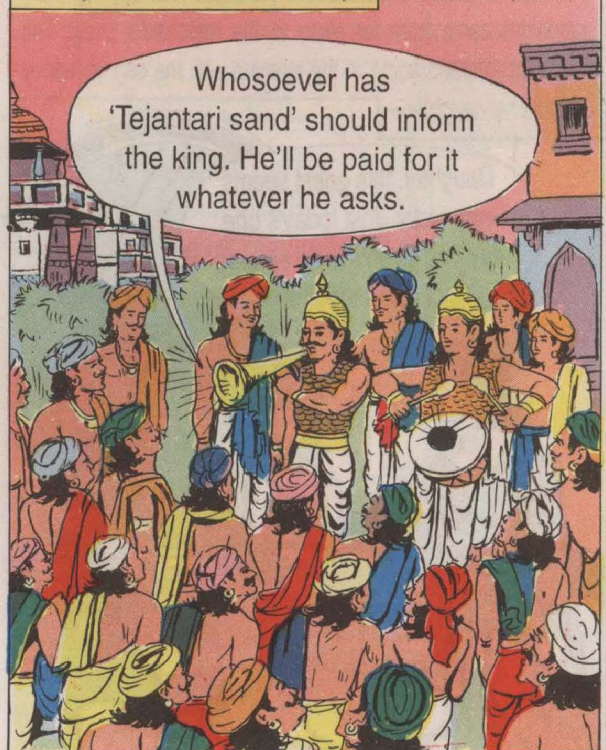


The merchant was surprised to hear it. As per the merchant's order, the sand was filled in the pots and kept in the store-house with care.

Few days later, a foreign merchant came to Venatat city. He requested the king—



The king made an announcement in the city—



Shrenik told the merchant hearing the announcement—

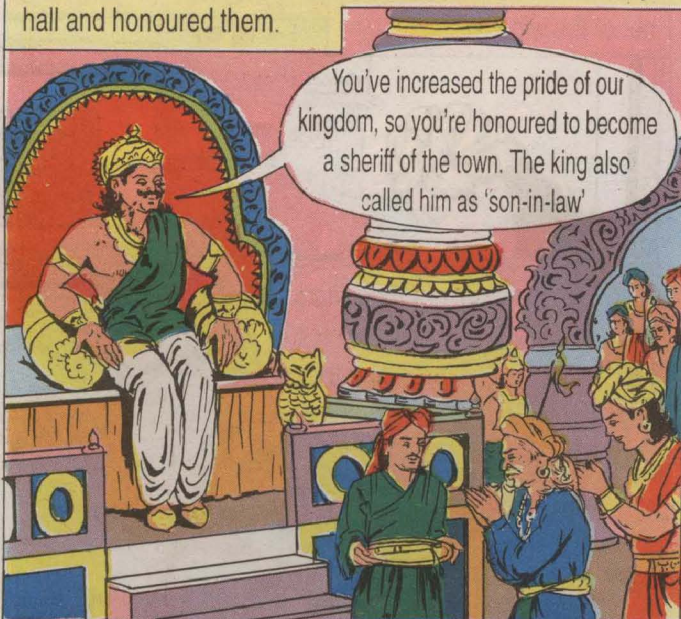


The merchant accepted the king's offer. Next day the foreign merchant came to merchant Subhadra. The merchant brought him to his store-house along with Shrenik.



The foreign merchant paid whatever Subhadra said and took away the pots.

The king called merchant Subhadra and Shrenik to the royal hall and honoured them.



Shrenik was known the son-in-law of merchant Subhadra in Rajsabha. Also the king called him the name of 'Son-in-law'.

One day Nanda told Shrenik—



Nanda felt shy hearing it.

Three months later again Nanda told Shrenik—

Master, I've a keen desire—

Dear, please tell me, I'll definitely fulfill it.

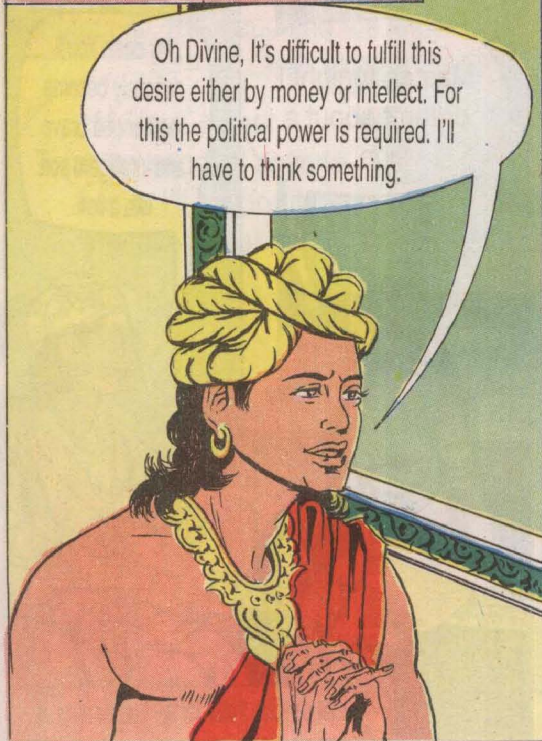


Master, Paryushan festival begins from tomorrow. No five sense beings should be killed in the kingdom for eight days. All the lives should be assured about their lives.



Shrenik was worried to hear this keen desire—

Oh Divine, It's difficult to fulfill this desire either by money or intellect. For this the political power is required. I'll have to think something.



Then there were noises on the royal path. Shrenik peeped out of the window.

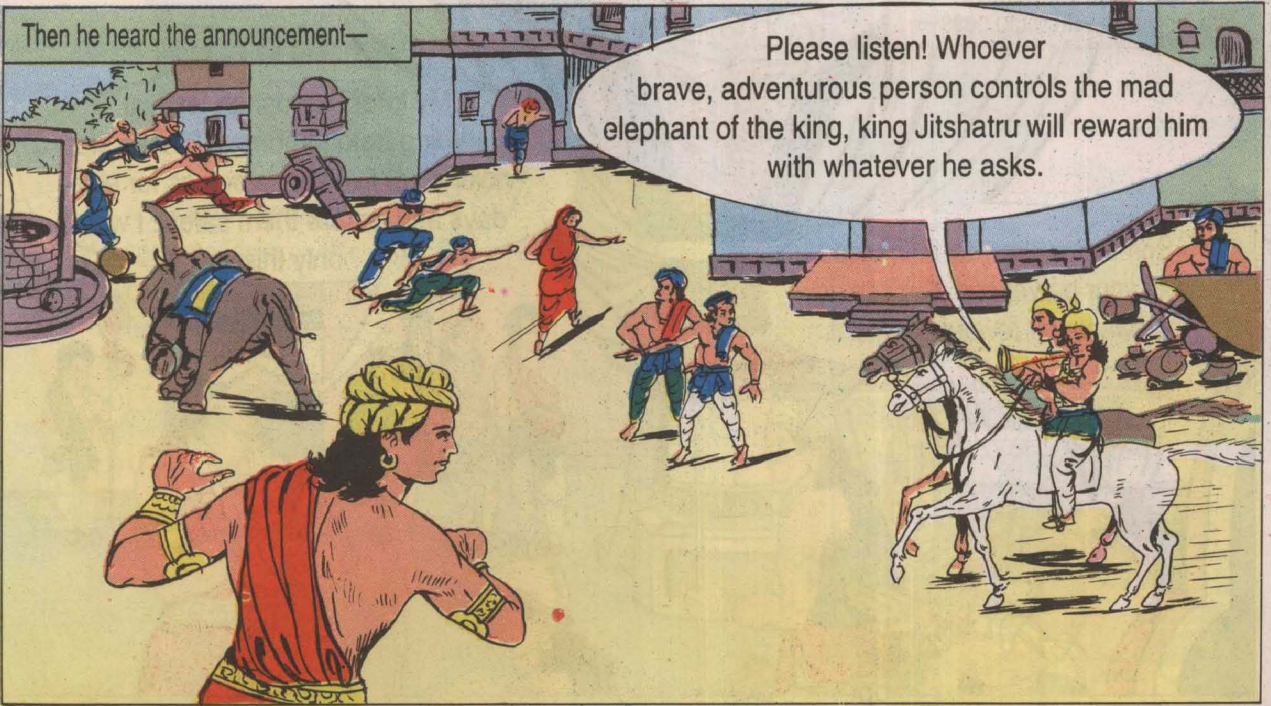
Oh, a mad elephant is breaking things in the city.



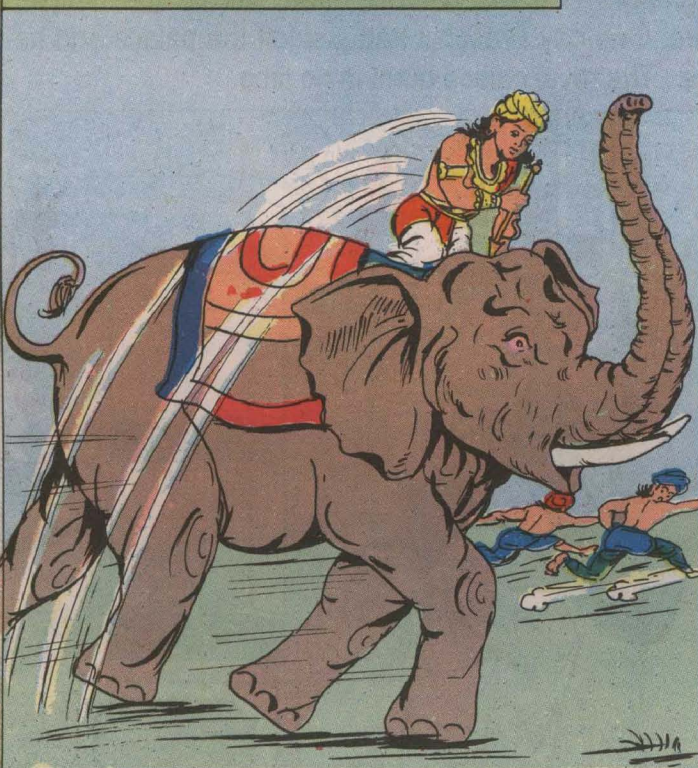
He immediately came down running.

Then he heard the announcement—

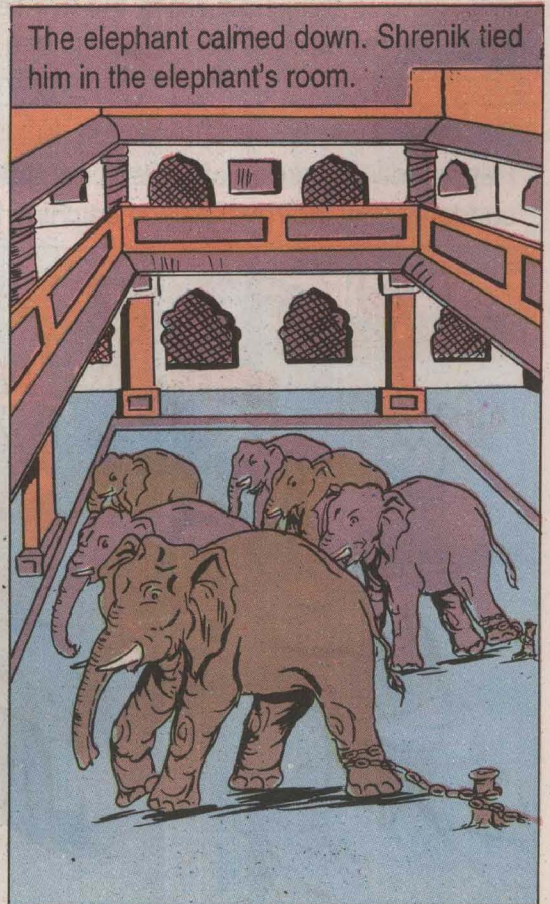
Please listen! Whoever brave, adventurous person controls the mad elephant of the king, king Jitshatru will reward him with whatever he asks.



Shrenik who was expert in the elephant's tactics came infront. He first made the elephant run alot. Then he climbed on it and controlled it.



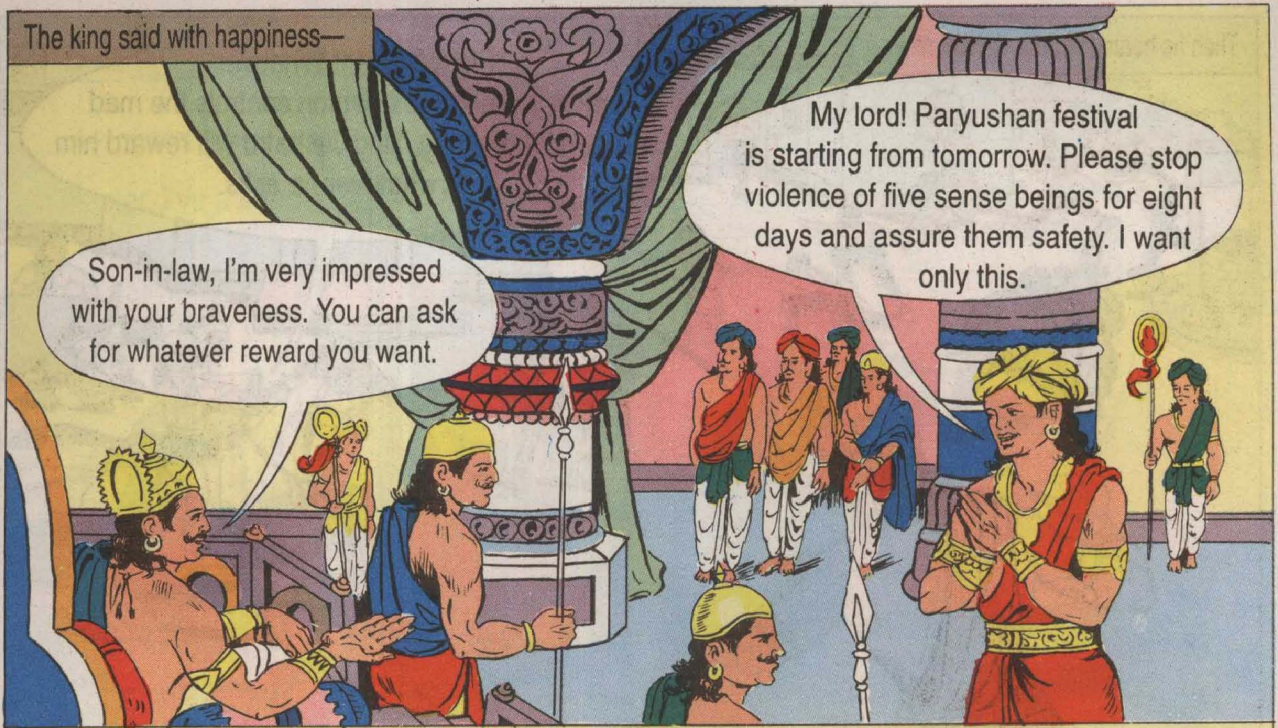
The elephant calmed down. Shrenik tied him in the elephant's room.



The king said with happiness—

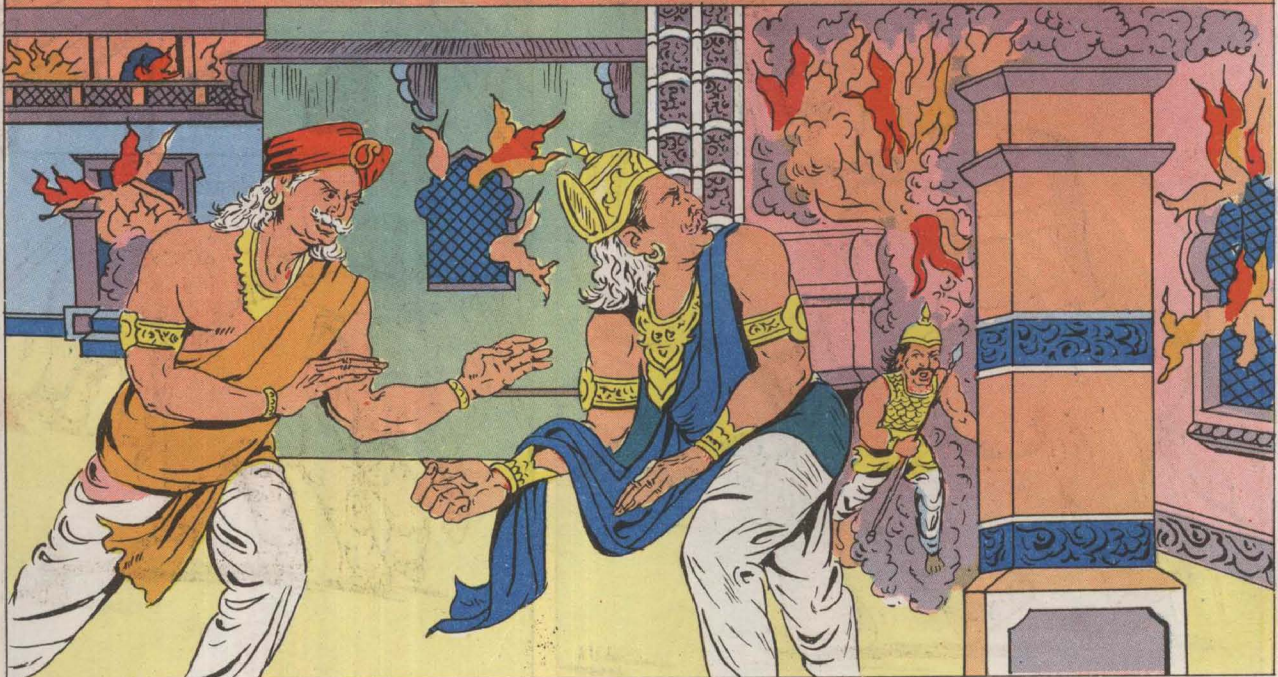
Son-in-law, I'm very impressed with your braveness. You can ask for whatever reward you want.

My lord! Paryushan festival is starting from tomorrow. Please stop violence of five sense beings for eight days and assure them safety. I want only this.



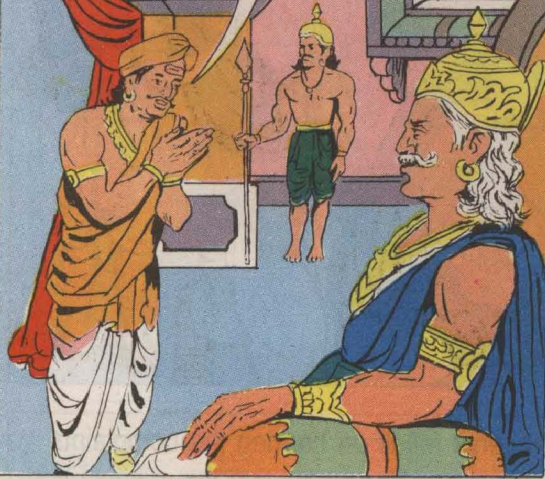
According to the king's order, the five sense beings were saved from killing for eight days in the kingdom. Nanda was very happy to see her keen desire getting fulfilled.

On other side, after Shrenik left Kushagrapur, as if the nature's wrath fell on the people. Repeatedly hundreds of houses caught fire. One day Prasenjit had just left the palace and he suddenly saw the royal palace catching fire . The royal palace burnt in no time.

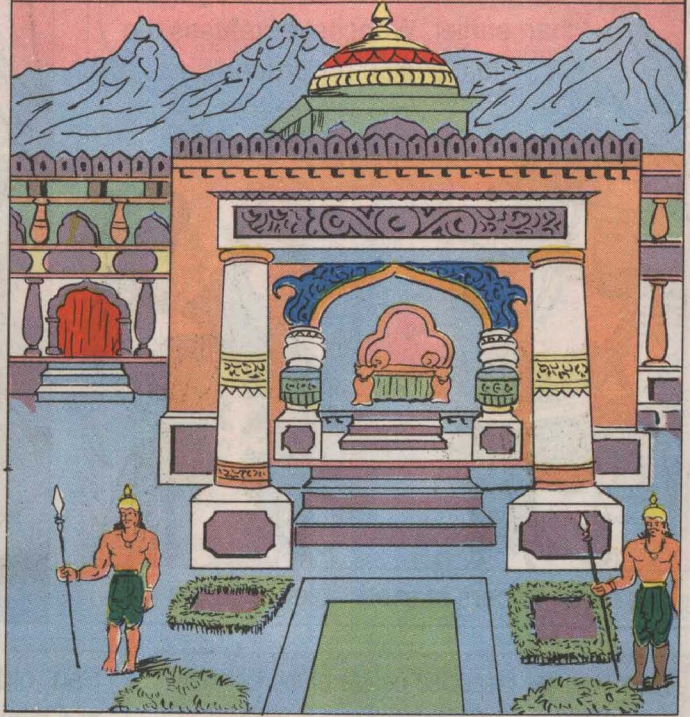


King Prasenjiti called experts and asked them the reason. They said—

My lord! There is a wrath of some goddess on this earth. So construct a new palace half km. away from here on the west.



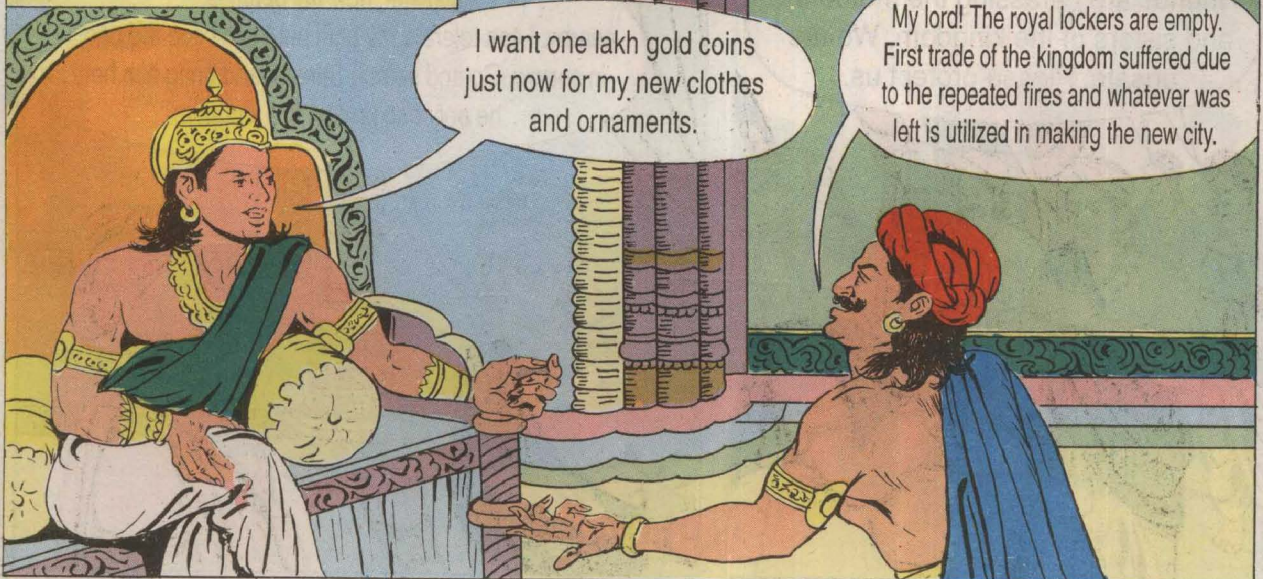
The king constructed a grand royal palace in the lap of the mountains named Vaibhavgiri, Ratnagiri etc. Since then Kushagraipur was famous by the new name of Rajgruh (the king's house).



King Prasenjiti was very sad after Shrenik left the kingdom. But as he was tied up with the promise, he had to make Chilatikumar, son of Tilakvati the king. As Chilatikumar became king, he immediately called the person in charge of the royal locker and ordered him—

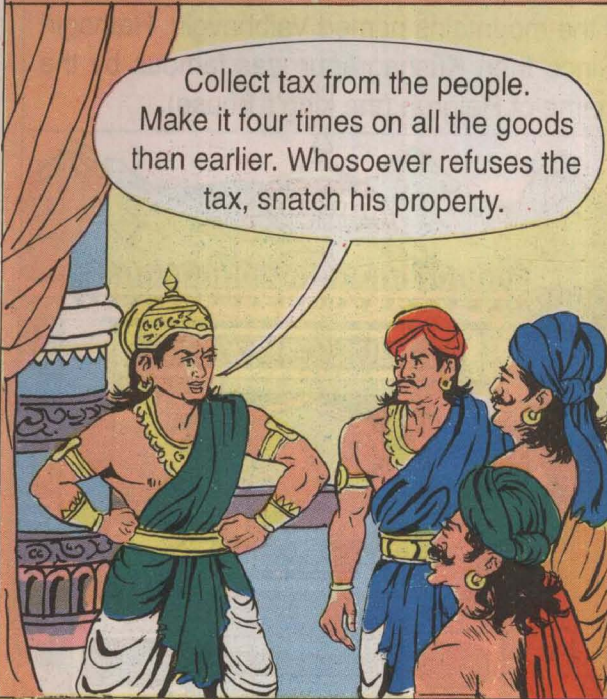
I want one lakh gold coins just now for my new clothes and ornaments.

My lord! The royal lockers are empty. First trade of the kingdom suffered due to the repeated fires and whatever was left is utilized in making the new city.



Chilatikumar called the royal officers and said—

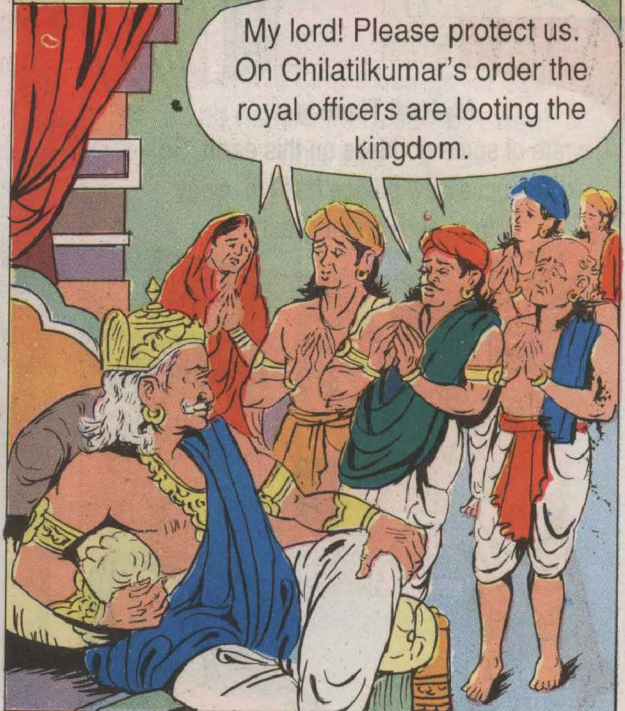
Collect tax from the people.
Make it four times on all the goods
than earlier. Whosoever refuses the
tax, snatch his property.



The royal officers started violence in the city.

People requested king Prasenjit for their protection—

My lord! Please protect us.
On Chilatikumar's order the
royal officers are looting the
kingdom.



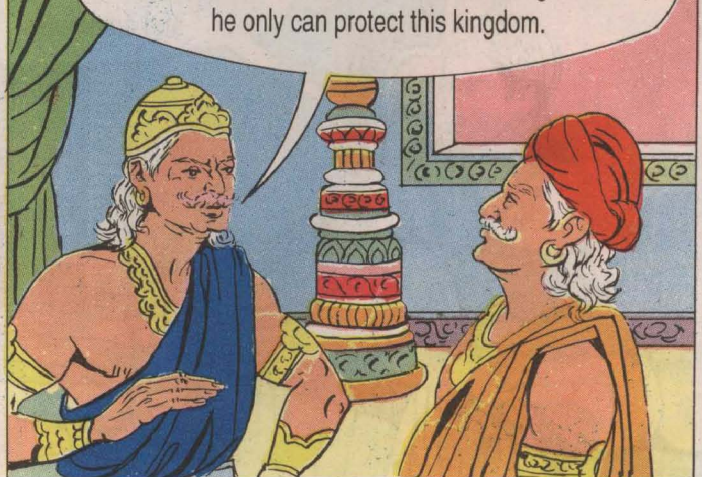
Then even the respected people of the kingdom
complained about Chilatikumar.

My lord! Prince and his wicked
friends are harassing the mothers
and sisters of the kingdom. We are
unsafe. Please protect us.

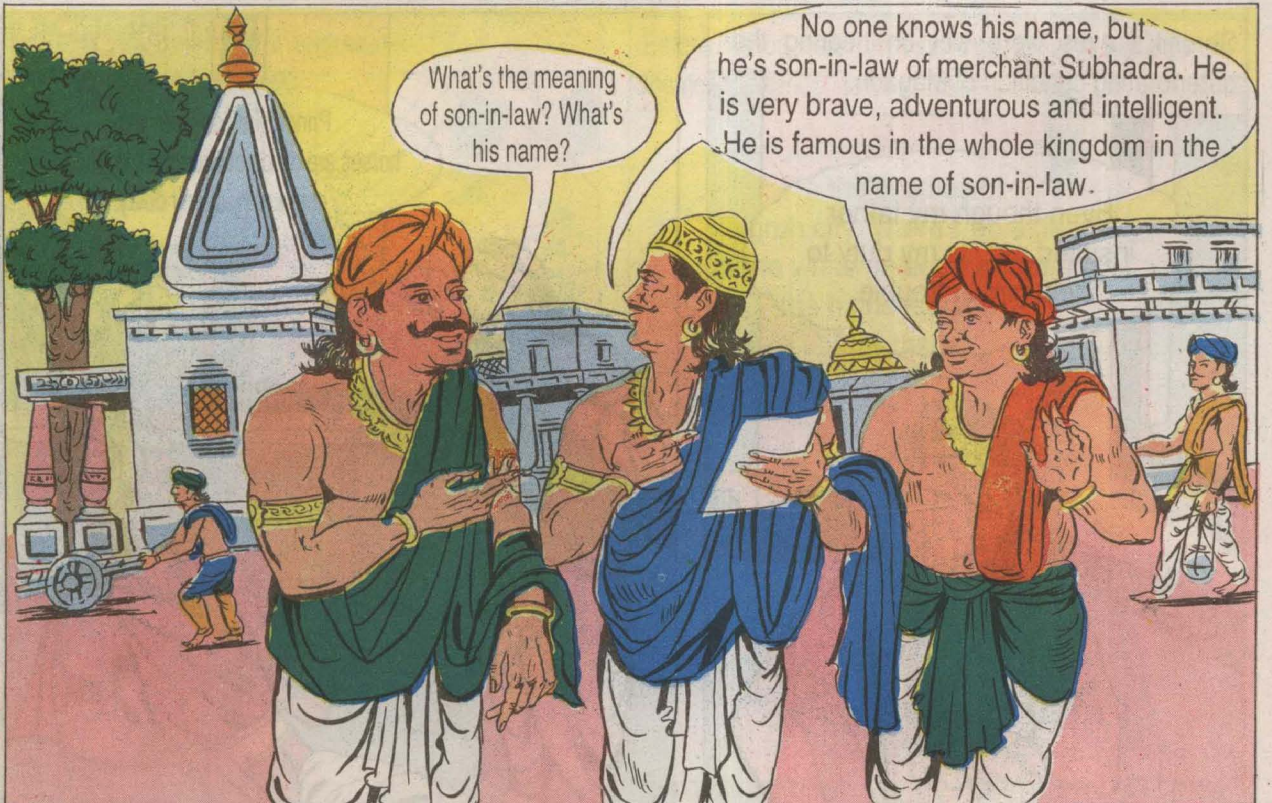


Sad, old Prasenjit fell ill on hearing the complaints
of Chilatikumar's bad deeds. He told the minister in
chief Vachaspati—

Minister, now my death is
nearby. I can tolerate my pain but I can't see the people
in sorrow. Go and search Shrenik and bring him here,
he only can protect this kingdom.



Minister in chief sent his faithful spies in search of Shrenik. One spy reached Venatat in search of Shrenik with his photo while roaming around from village to village. While roaming in Venatat he asked a person—



Spy reached merchant Subhadra's house. He saw Shrenik sitting in front. Spy bowed down to him with respect. Shrenik recognized him. He took him inside the room and asked—

What's the matter?
How come you're here?

My lord! Your father is
on the death-bed. He repeatedly
expresses his desire to meet you.
Please come fast.

Spy told the whole story of harassment of Chilatikumar and the illness of Prasenjit.

Shrenik's eyes were wet on hearing the
deteriorating condition of Magadh.

Even though my father
insulted me, it's my duty to
help him in trouble.

Prince! Two soldiers with
horses are ready outside the city. Please
come without any delay.

Shrenik went inside the palace and told everything to Nanda—

My father is waiting for me on the death-bed. I'll have to go immediately.

Master, I'll also come with you.

Shrenik explained her—

It's not advisable to travel in this condition for you.

How'll I stay here without you? And when your son is born and if he asks about his father, what'll I tell him? You've not given any introduction of yours till today.

Shrenik gave her a letter and said—

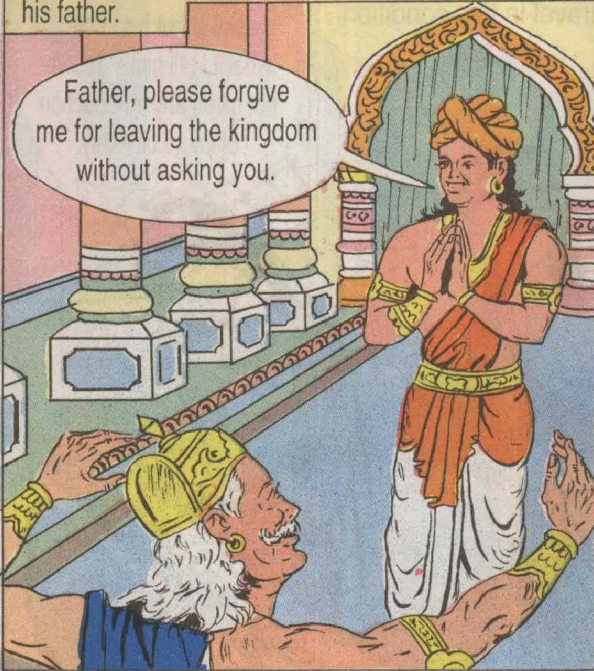
You keep this letter with care. I've written my name and address in it.

Before Nanda asks anything else, Shrenik went out of the house. Nanda read the letter—

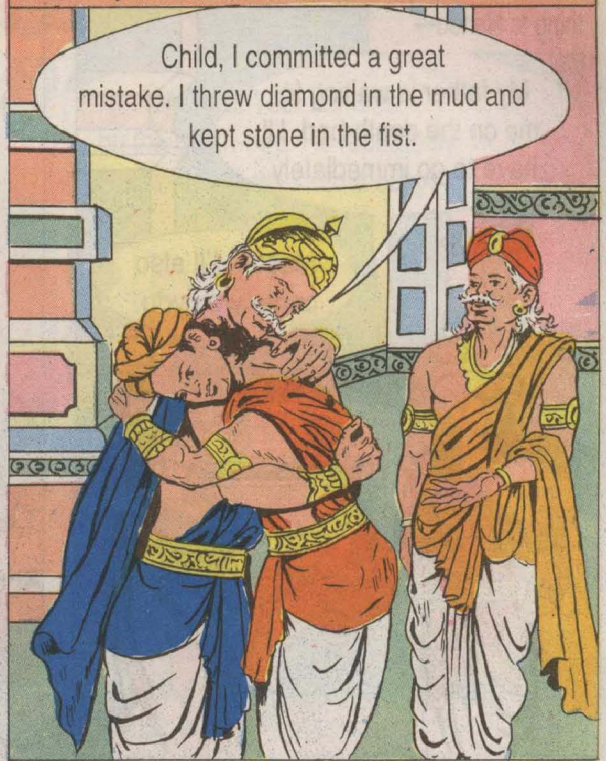
I'm the cowboy of Rajgruh city. There'll be a flag on the white palace located at the highest place. I stay there.

Nanda couldn't understand the written matter of the letter.

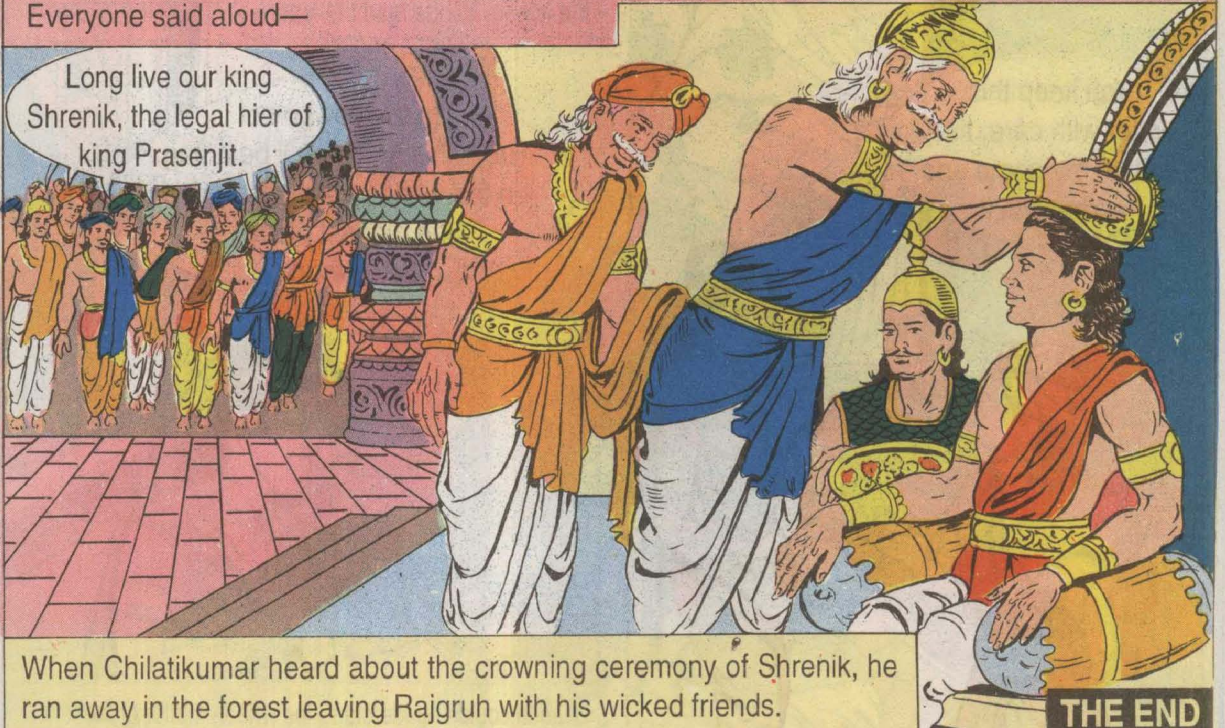
Two horses were ready below a tree outside the kingdom. Shrenik rode on one horse and the spy on the other. Both reached Rajgruh. Shrenik bowed down to his father.



Prasenjit embraced Shrenik.



Next day Shrenik was made the king. Prasenjit put the royal crown on Shrenik's head. Everyone said aloud—



When Chilatikumar heard about the crowning ceremony of Shrenik, he ran away in the forest leaving Rajgruh with his wicked friends.

THE END

LOVE

What is love ? Inspite of all that the philosophers have told us, we do not want to understand the true nature of the most potent force in the world. We believe in the movie myth that love means physical beauty and poetic passion. All that, may well be a thrilling experience but that is not love, that is conditional love. When the condition is gone, frustration sets in and love disappears. Although we all are capable of unconditional love—the essence of Bhagwan Mahavir's teaching, loving with conditions is far more common with human-beings.



Compassionate Heart

When we love another because he or she meets our needs, we are loving conditionally. Similarly, when we give to get, we are placing conditions on our love. This is the way love is usually defined and the way most of us are brought up to understand it. But respecting others by seeing and accepting them as they are is an expression of unconditional love.

The nature of consciousness is unconditional love. We love people when we love them, for what they are and not for being young or old, beautiful or wealthy. Love is the greatest of all soul forces. It is the feeling of fullness that grows inside us from self respect and love, until it over flows and must be given away. It is the silver link that binds all living hearts together in unity and harmony. Love is the vision that helps us to see ourself in all life force and all in ourself—microcosm in macrocosm and macrocosm in microcosm.

When in today's world people are intoxicated and under the spell of prejudices, hatred, envy, jealousy greed etc., the spirit of infinite love is most needed. "Love is the foundation and the apex of the pyramid of our existence", says Wilferd A. Peterson. Today we have made pieces of love and have lost our peace. Throwing pieces of love here and there we are splitting ourself within. When we have love for few chosen that means we exclude others. This is conditional love. This condition roots from our inability to love ourself completely and our inability to receive love from others. There is nothing more painful than being alone together.

The essence of love is relatedness. Relatedness to a person, to one's self, or to any life form. To relate means 'to carry back together'. So relatedness in love means to bring back together what is one but seemingly has become separate. That which separates us from the feeling of oneness with all life force is our ego and our greed. That is the reason when we do not love we disconnect ourself from others and become separate. When we are disconnected we can do anything to hurt others. When we are connected we can understand the feelings of others and experience a sense of wholeness and unity. Mr. Leonard Laskow, M. D. says, "Love has the power to create an energy field that affects all that enters it. It is said that loving field of Christ and Buddha was so powerful that people were healed in their presence".

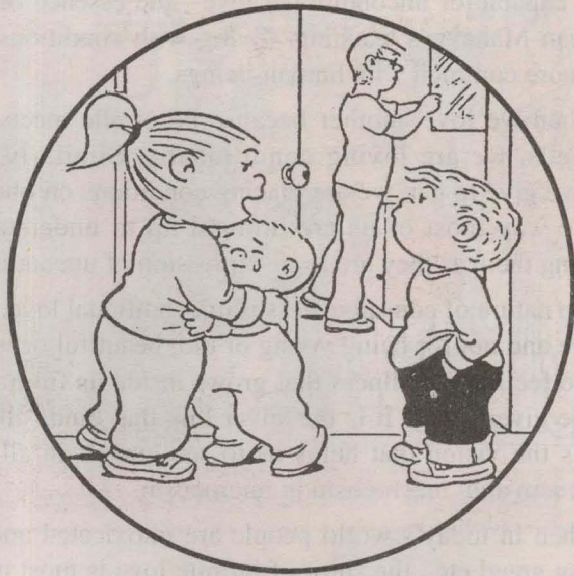
Love has three aspects to it : awareness, feeling, and action. Love is our awareness of the inherent connection that we share with all life; we experience it as a feeling; and we express it as an action.

The story which you are about to read describes all three aspects of love found in one person.

LOVE FOR HATE

It was a blistering hot day in the mid-summer month, when a man with the unmistakable stamp of divinity on his face, was walking along a path covered with sharp stones and thorns. His eyes shone with infinite kindness and his face was radiant as the moon.

A herdsman coming from the opposite direction addressed him respectfully, "Master, why do you go this way ? It is lonely way where even beasts are afraid to go. There lives a terrible king cobra called Chandakaushik that waylays the wayfarers." However, the great man went his way despite the warning. Some distance away there was an ant-hill. The land around it looked lonely and deserted. The man halted and looked around. The scent of a human being drew the terrible snake out of the ant-hill. Even as he darted out at lightening speed, he was amazed at the fearlessness of the man who dared to stand at the very mouth of his dwelling ! Mad with rage, the cobra bit the man's foot, emptying his fangs of their deadly poison, and raising his head, watched his victim. To his surprise he saw milk tricking out of the wound.



**"Aspirin is okay for headaches,
but lovin' is best for heartaches."**

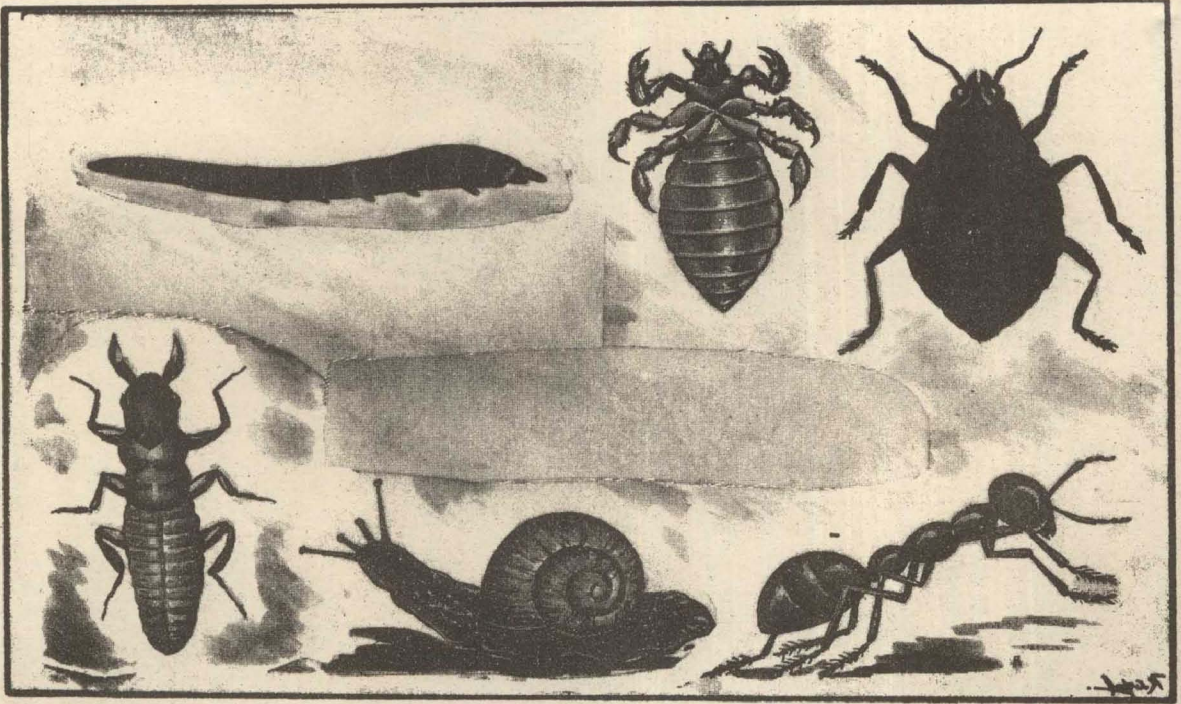
Has anyone ever seen milk instead of blood, tricking out of a living being ? Ah, yes ! Does not the blood in a woman's breasts change into milk when she becomes a mother ? It is because of her love for her new born baby that causes this transformation. How could the cobra comprehend the fact that every cell of this great man Bhagwan Mahavir was filled with all pervading love for every living being on earth and the blood in his body was transformed into milk by this miracle of love. LOVE EVER GIVES AND FORGIVES.

The three aspects of love seen in Bhagwan Mahavir's life depicted in this story is very obvious. Through his long inner search and self-realization he came to awareness that all life is potentially same. This awareness unlocked the loving feeling towards all-friend or foe, and the loving feeling led to loving action. So when the cobra bit him he did not get angry but instead showered loving compassion by his unthreatening presence. This is the true portrayal of unconditional love.

Jai Jinendra

—PRAMODA CHITRABHANU

WE ARE



THREE-SENSED LIVING BEINGS

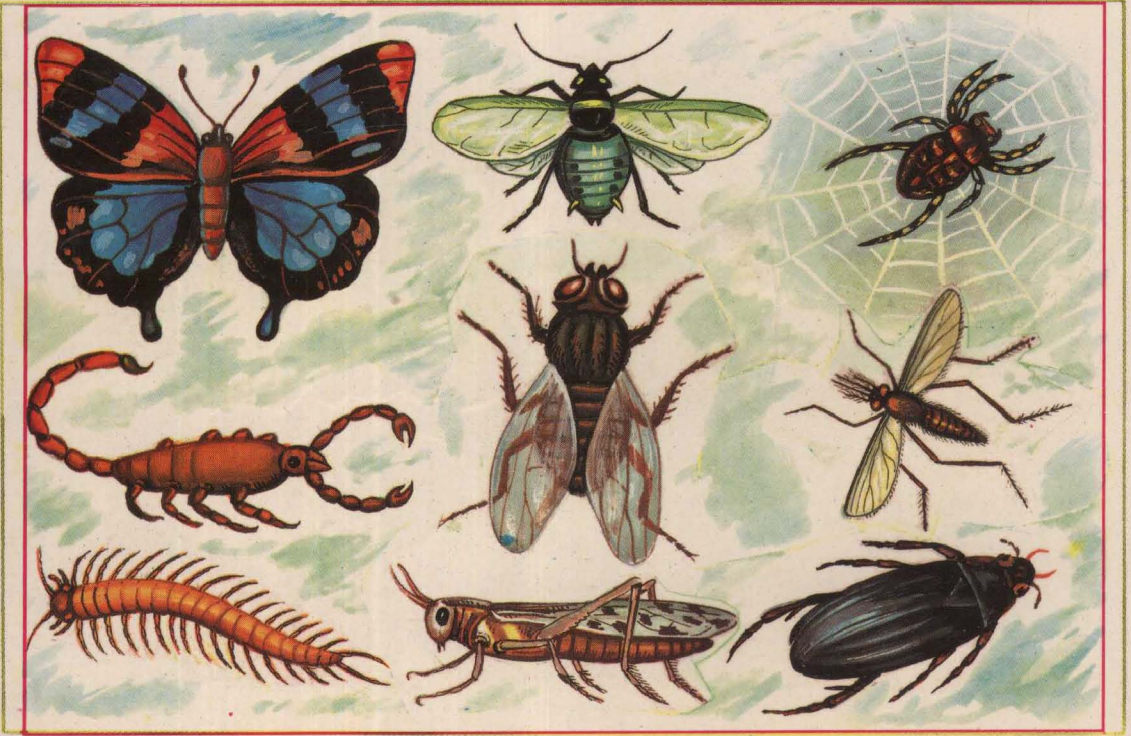
WE ARE LIVING BEINGS.

WE HAVE THREE SENSES.

THESE THREE SENSES ARE

TOUCH, TASTE AND SMELL.

WE ARE



FOUR-SENSED LIVING BEINGS

WE ARE LIVING BEINGS.

WE HAVE FOUR SENSES.

THESE FOUR SENSES ARE

TOUCH, TASTE, SMELL AND VISION.

*All those having three senses or four senses have
Jeeva (Soul) like us. So treat them as
you wish to be treated.*